

Aim to keep average rise to £22

Patten unveils £3bn plan to ease poll tax

BY ROBIN OAKLEY AND NICHOLAS WOOD

CHRIS Patten, the environment secretary, yesterday announced a £3.26 billion boost for local authority spending designed to limit average poll tax increases next year to £22 a person.

Four million people will receive help for the first time because of changes in the transitional relief scheme, which will aid those living in previously low-rated areas and up to 11 million people will receive additional help.

Mr Patten, who was given a warm reception by anxious Tory backbenchers, hailed his settlement as "generous by any measure". Labour, however, called it a "paltry package" that would salvage nothing from the disaster of the poll tax.

The prime minister said that the new money gained by Mr Patten to make the poll tax more politically palatable was evidence of her readiness to respond to backbench concerns. On the day, however, that the cabinet agreed to maintain strict control of public spending, Margaret Thatcher's address to the backbench 1922 committee of Tory MPs left no doubt that the size of the poll tax settlement meant less for other departments.

Echoing John Major, the chancellor, she said that with privatisation receipts and tax revenues down, the Treasury was "no pot of gold".

The £3.26 billion increase is support to local authorities is equivalent to a little more than 2p on the basic rate of

income tax, or slightly above 1½ per cent on value-added tax. Alternatively, it would cover the running costs of more than 3,000 big comprehensive schools.

The poll tax reform, as promised, contains no alteration in the basic principles or structure of the tax, but consultations will take place on sorting out anomalies that affect those who are involuntary second home owners, those who live over the shop and those in temporary bed and breakfast accommodation.

Despite sharp constraints on public spending agreed at yesterday's cabinet meeting, Mr Patten's colleagues supported the Treasury's concession of £2.10 billion for what was conceded to be a crucial political objective.

Mr Patten, who had earlier won his battle not to be forced into new poll tax legislation, pleased Tory backbenchers with the biggest ever cash increase in local government spending. To meet the insistence of the prime minister and the chancellor that the money goes to reducing poll tax bills and not in higher spending, Mr Patten made plain that he would not hesitate next year "vigorously" to cap the community charges of high spending councils.

The environmental secretary believes that the levels of standard spending assessment and the revenue support grant he is setting for local authorities next year will result in average poll tax bills of £379, a rise of £22 over this year, despite increases in local authority responsibilities. Before yesterday's announcement, local authority associations were saying that average levels could exceed £500.

Mr Patten's aim was to achieve a package, at reasonable cost to the Treasury, which would take the poll tax off the front pages, soothe Tory party concerns and avoid the need for primary legislation. Last night, his colleagues believed that, after a long and bumpy ride in the cabinet committee wrestling with the party's biggest political problem, he had met those objectives.

The biggest change is the increase in transitional relief schemes. Instead of being cut to £260 million next year, transitional relief will be extended to £570 million. Phasing out of the relief will be delayed for two years, benefiting up to 11 million people, including four million people for the first time. The maximum increase faced by charge payers will be cut from this year's £3 a week to £2 a week as long as their local authority

**Doubt cast, and Thatcher flagged ship, page 2
Leading article, page 15**



Faldo only one shot behind Open leaders

By JOHN HENNESSY

NICK Faldo, winner of the US Masters for the second successive time in April, brought his first round in the Open golf championship to an exhilarating conclusion at St Andrews yesterday, holing a 45-yard pitch-and-run for an eagle two at the 18th and a total of 67, five under par.

That put him one stroke behind the joint leaders, Greg Norman, one of the tournament favourites, and Michael Allen, an American of less distinguished reputation.

Open reports, page 41, 42



Under arrest: Patricia Cahill (left) and Karyn Smith in the police station at Bangkok airport after their detention

British girls face Thai drug charges

By CRAIG SETON, AND
NEIL KELLY IN BANGKOK

TWO teenage British girls arrested in Thailand on drug-smuggling charges are expected to appear in court in Bangkok today. The girls, on their first trip abroad, were detained in the early hours of yesterday after 67lb of top-grade heroin with an estimated street value of £4 million was allegedly found in their baggage.

Karyn Joanne Smith, aged 19, from Solihull, and Patricia Ann Cahill, 17, from Birmingham, were arrested at Bangkok's Don Maung airport as they tried to board a flight to Amsterdam with onward tickets to The Gambia. Their parents are to fly to Thailand as soon as they can.

The Foreign Office said Thai police had told them that Miss Cahill would appear before a juvenile court and be sent to a juvenile remand centre. Miss Smith would be sent to Klong Prem prison outside the capital. Under Thai law she could be executed by firing squad if convicted. Miss Cahill would not be executed because she is under 18.

John Francis, the British consul in Bangkok said of the drug haul: "It is a hell of a lot ... an enormous amount. It is the first case we have had of a UK citizen carrying such a large quantity." He added that the girls were "in a bit of a state of shock but appear to be in good health".

Miss Cahill's father, Patrick, aged 43, said he had believed his daughter to be on holiday in Scotland. "This has been such a shock, but now we just want to get over there to see her. I don't know why she went to Thailand. Perhaps she was terrified into it."

Customs officers found the heroin in specially constructed containers of condensed milk, tea, coffee and biscuits. They said they would not have detected it without a tip-off. Both girls denied knowledge of the drugs.

Washington's change of policy, announced on Wednesday by James Baker, the Secretary

of State, has also left several of its allies in a dilemma. Toshiaki Kaifu, prime minister of Japan, said last night he welcomed Mr Baker's initiative as a "new wind" but added that the sharp policy change would not affect Japan's own course.

Australia, which finds its peace plan undermined, as well as the countries of South-East Asia led by Singapore, which have for years lobbied to maintain the UN seat find themselves at odds with the new US line.

The US decision to withdraw support for the coalition, and to open talks with Vietnam to find a solution to the Cambodian conflict, is aimed at preventing a Khmer Rouge return to power.

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Leading article, page 15**

Scargill blow as NUM wins ruling on £1.4m

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE National Union of Mineworkers was granted an injunction last night in Dublin to freeze the £1.4 million of Soviet and East European money donated to help striking British miners, when details of the money held in the Irish Intercontinental Bank in Merrion Square, Dublin, were made public.

The court was told it was opened in the names of Alain Simon, of France, general secretary of the International Miners' Organisation, and Norman West, member of the European Parliament, described as a trustee of the Miners Defence Aid Fund, at the time of the miners' strike in 1984. M Simon and M West are also restrained by the injunction, effective until July 27.

Ian Finlay, for the NUM, told the court that the account was opened in January 1985 when Mr Scargill took steps to avoid the attentions of the sequestor.

The substantive claim against four defendants, including Mr Heathfield, in the English action is for damages for breach of trust and that they make restitution to the plaintiffs in lieu of

breach of trust. An application for an interlocutory injunction with the other parties present or represented will be made on Friday, July 27. Defendants were given liberty to apply to court in the meantime.

In Sheffield last night, Mr Scargill and Mr Heathfield were being followed by men who apparently had the task of passing on their whereabouts to court bailiffs making their way from London with writs.

After the executive meeting, Mr Scargill condemned his colleagues' action as "judicious and completely crackers", saying the affair should be resolved by negotiation and arbitration. Mr Heathfield said: "I feel hard done by. I think it is diabolical."

Although Mr Scargill is adamantly he has done nothing wrong and dismissed a suggestion that he would be forced out, the prospect of his being hauled to court by his own members will create a leadership crisis and increase the pressures on him to resign.

China rejects US line on Cambodia

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN CANTON

CHINA yesterday opposed the call by the United States to the Cambodian resistance coalition to vacate its United Nations seat. Peking's staunch support for the tripartite coalition, which comprises the non-communist factions of Prince Sihanouk and Son Sann and the communist Khmer Rouge, confirms that the bond between the resistance and China holds strong in the face of the new challenge from Washington.

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Washington's change of policy, announced on Wednesday by James Baker, the Secretary

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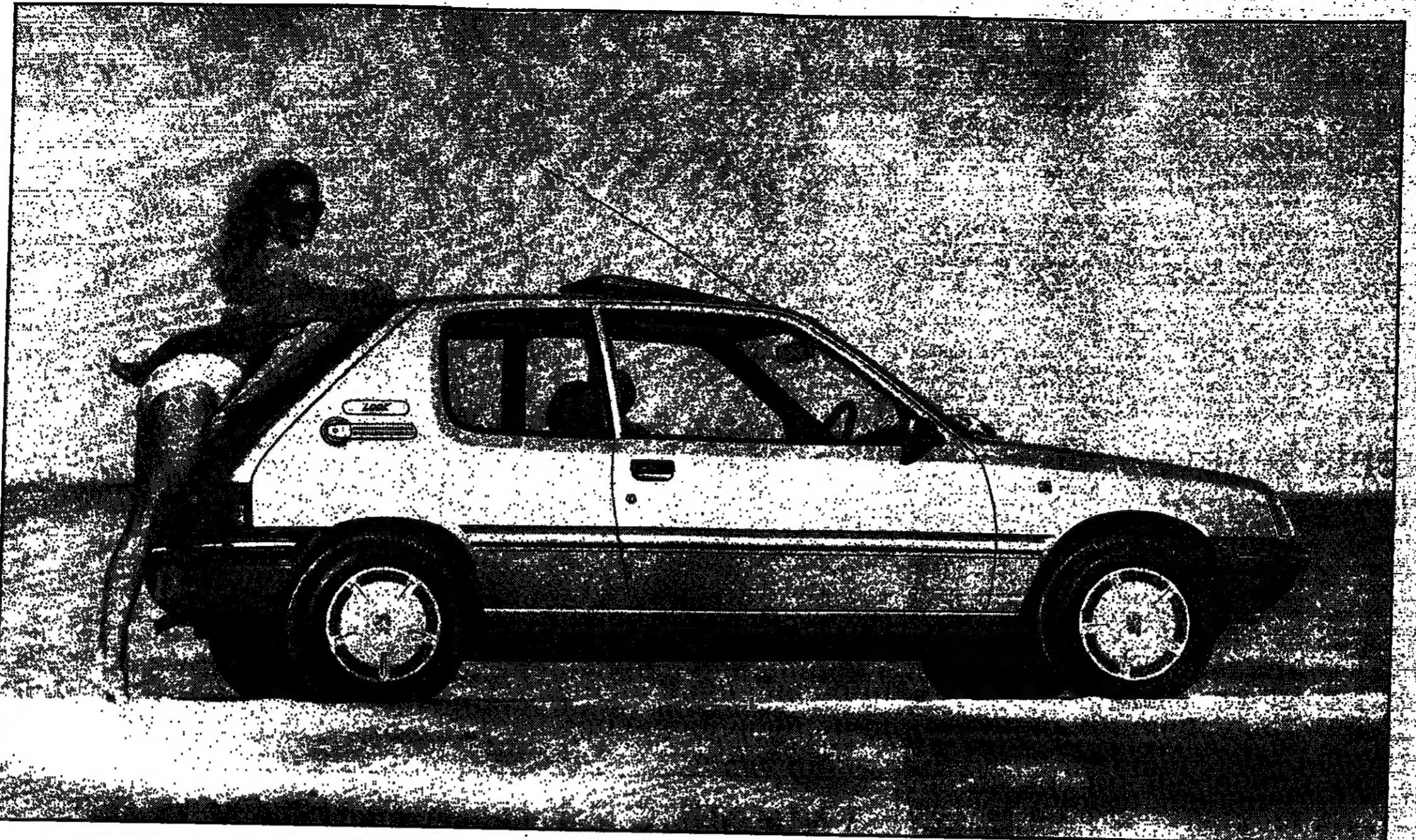
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Hospital wait halved
Community delay co...
Huntsman accused of violence
Prince Charles enterprise
By CHARLES KENNEDY, ANCHOR
The Prince of Wales yesterday
met local financial institutions
to help fund community
schemes for training schemes
local entrepreneurs.
The prince, in a speech
on videotape at the
inauguration ceremony
of the first annual community
finance scheme sponsored
by the Prince of Wales Foundation
and the Royal
Institute of British Architects.
He also welcomed an initiative
to link companies awarding
prizes in Britain with those
in other parts of Europe.
Sir Peter Jenkins, editor of
The Times, said that the
newspaper had launched an
initiative that would raise
funds for community projects in the
United Kingdom, with
United Kingdom, with
Hungary and
other European countries.
The Prince of Wales Foundation
is supported by the
Government Office and will enable
the prince and his wife to travel
around Europe and meet
representatives of the
European Union.
The Prince suggested the
idea of a European "ambassador"
of community workers
who could learn
from each other, and who could
visit their ventures with confidence.
They could be
able to offer, perhaps
new ideas and opportunities
for their ventures with confidence.

Hospital long-term waiting lists are halved in shake-up

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A £5 million initiative to tackle hospital waiting times in 22 health districts has halved the number of patients waiting more than a year for treatment, according to a report published yesterday.

The report, from John Yates at the health services management centre in Birmingham, shows that in-patient waiting lists in the districts studied fell by 26,000 and the overall number of patients waiting more than a year fell from 54,657 to 34,509, a drop of 37 per cent. However, the numbers waiting more than 12 months in 43 specialties examined by Mr Yates fell by 49 per cent, from 29,580 to 15,000. Ten thousand additional patients were treated.

In 1988, Mr Yates, who heads the Inter-Authority Comparisons and Consultant-

Community care delay costs £20m

SOME £20 million has been spent on preparing for the community care reforms which were due to be implemented next April, but have now been postponed, the Association of Directors of Social Services said yesterday (Jill Sherman writes).

Bob Lewis, the association's honorary secretary said that his department in Stockport had spent more than £80,000 on management consultancy fees, staff development and training and seconded appointments. "If you then count in the capital costs of the new information systems we have spent more than £100,000," Mr Lewis said.

He was confident that the sum could be extrapolated to the 200 local authorities in England. "At least £20 million has been committed at the expense of other areas which badly needed funding," Mr Lewis said. Other services for children, the elderly and the

Huntsman accused of violence

THE master of a hunt headbutted a businessman who refused to allow them to cross his land on Boxing Day last year, Truro magistrates were told yesterday.

Geoffrey Thomas, aged 35, of Redruth, Cornwall, pleaded not guilty to assaulting John Weavers and causing him actual bodily harm, damaging two cars and using threatening behaviour.

The Cury Hunt was stopped by Mr Weavers outside his cottage at Coverack Bridges, Cornwall. The court was told that Mr Weavers stood in front of more than 20 horses and refused to let them pass.

Mr Thomas said that it was his intention to take the hunt through a gully behind Mr Weavers' cottage. The hunt had followed the same route for generations.

Mr Thomas is said to have got into a car blocking the hunt's path and let off the brake so that it rolled into another car. He was also said to have made threats against one of Mr Weavers' daughters. The case continues today.

Over-55s outspend the rest

BRITAIN'S over-55 population could hold the key to ending the consumer spending recession, a survey has found (David Young writes).

The survey by the market research specialists Signal International has found that people in that age bracket account for £1 in every £3 spent by consumers. Signal says that they spend because they want to, not to meet commitments, and that they do not have the debt burden of people aged from 20 to the early 40s.

Researchers found that the top 10 per cent of the over 55s, about 1.5 million people, spend £28 billion (9 per cent) of the total amount spent annually in Britain, which is more than any other group. More than half of them own their own homes outright and many will soon have their disposable income and wealth boosted through inheritance and improved non-state pension benefits.

Over 55s. The Invisible Consumer (Signal International, £1,000)

Prince calls for enterprise funds

By CHARLES KNEVITT, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales yesterday urged financial institutions to help fund community projects for training schemes for local entrepreneurs.

The prince, in a speech shown on videotape at the awards ceremony in London of the fifth annual community enterprise scheme sponsored by *The Times*, the Royal Institute of British Architects and Business in the Community, also welcomed an initiative to link community award winners in Britain with those in other parts of Europe.

Simon Jenkins, editor of *The Times*, said that the newspaper had launched an initiative that would twin community projects in the United Kingdom with projects in Hungary and, eventually, with projects in other European countries. The initiative is supported by the Know-How Fund run by the Foreign Office, and will enable a delegation from Hungary to meet the prince and this year's winners.

The prince suggested the creation of a European network of community entrepreneurs who could learn from us, and we from them. "They could visit the best we have to offer, perhaps twinning their ventures with others. There could be an

responsible for half the long waits in the districts. "In our experience, false figures, underfunding of specialties within health authorities and inefficiency were the reasons that so many patients waited so long for treatment," the report said.

The dramatic reduction was achieved by reorganising schedules, setting targets for the number of operations, removing "ghost patients" from lists, employing more staff, and using resources more cost effectively. Mr Yates denied that the operations had been achieved because of the extra resources.

"The 22 districts simply received their share of the £30 million funded centrally. In the remaining 168 health authorities, lists show no sign of reducing. Indeed, between December 1988 and December 1989 there was a small increase," he said.

Mr Yates has now been asked to tackle the next worst 100 districts. The government is determined to show a reduction in waiting times nationally by the end of 1992 which it can then attribute to the success of NHS reforms.

● A year of healthy living might help millions of patients with coronary heart disease to get rid of the fat clogging their arteries, according to an American study published in *The Lancet* yesterday. It suggests that the symptoms of even severe coronary artery disease can be reversed within 12 months by moderate exercise, a careful diet and stopping smoking.

A lot of money has been spent on computer systems to organise the purchasing of care from the private and voluntary sectors, which has now been delayed for two years. The association is to meet Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, next Thursday to urge her to rethink the delay.

Social services departments fear that councils will now divert money to more pressing areas such as roads and education, endangering the staged community care programme.



Open secret: retired members of the Intelligence Corps preparing to march through Ashford, Kent, yesterday to mark the corps' 50th anniversary

Egg salmonella fear as woman dies in hospital

By LIN JENKINS

A WOMAN patient has died of salmonella food poisoning at a hospital for the mentally handicapped as fears grow over an unexpected rise in the number of cases of one virulent form throughout the country in the past few weeks.

Officials from the health department and the agriculture ministry have met farmers' leaders and representatives of egg and poultry producers to discuss the rise in the number of cases of salmonella enteritidis phage type 4.

Figures released yesterday by the Public Health Laboratory Service show the incidence of cases up by 18 per cent in the first six months of this year compared to the same period last year. The greatest part of the increase to 4,837 cases has been in recent weeks as earlier figures for the first quarter of the year showed a drop of 3 per cent.

Environmental health officials believe the worst of the outbreak at the 300-patient hospital is over and there are unlikely to be any new cases. The health department yesterday warned people to store and prepare food correctly, particularly in the present hot spell. Further measures governing the temperatures at which foods are kept during storage, distribution and retail are being phased in. Some fluctuations in figures was expected, the department said. "There is no cause for alarm."

Keith Pulman, secretary of the UK Egg Producers' Association, representing 650 small farmers, said: "We said it was not eggs that were to blame and now they have slaughtered all the birds and still the figures go up. The government has wasted two years blaming eggs while it should have been looking for the real cause."

David Clark, Labour spokesman on agriculture, called for imported eggs to be tested at ports of entry to ensure that they were free of salmonella.

Those suffering from the illness are being treated in an isolation ward. One woman in her 30s whose condition was

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Count faces ruin after abandoning court case

By RAY CLANCY

COUNT Nikolai Tolstoy yesterday gave up his appeal against £1.5 million damages awarded to Lord Aldington in a libel case last November.

He faces financial ruin after the Court of Appeal in London ruled yesterday that unless Count Tolstoy could find £124,900 within 14 days and deposit it in court as security for costs, his appeal against the record damages should be dismissed at Lord Aldington's request.

Sir Stephen Brown, sitting with Lords Justices Russell and Beldam, said Count Tolstoy was, on his own admission, imppecunious and it was clear his appeal had no chance of success.

It was therefore right to make a security for costs order, thus ensuring that Lord Aldington would not have to fund an appeal hearing. They refused the count leave to

JPs told of euthanasia attempt in hospital

A BROTHER and sister tried to kill their terminally ill mother as an act of mercy as she lay in a hospital bed, Leicester magistrates were told yesterday.

Andrew Thompson, aged 25, a hotel manager, and his sister Nicola, aged 21, a student and single mother of two, are accused of attempting to murder their mother, Pauline Barber, to spare her further pain. The two were charged on July 5, two days after the alleged offence.

Mrs Barber, aged 58, had cancer and was expected to live only a few days when they visited her at Leicester Royal Infirmary on July 3, magistrates were told. She pleaded with them from her hospital bed: "Please let me die. People have a right to die."

Miss Lawley, for the prosecution, said Mr Thompson altered the dosage of diamorphine being injected into his mother's body at regular intervals by a motorised syringe drive, while his sister comforted her. The syringe's entire contents were emptied into Mrs Barber's body in one potentially fatal dose, but doctors gave her an antidote and she survived. Mrs Barber died on Sunday from her illness. Her son and daughter were due to attend her funeral yesterday.

Miss Lawley said: "Whatever our views on euthanasia, it is still a criminal offence and attempted murder."

Over D'Sa, for the defence, said: "No attempt was made to conceal the incident. Their actions, guided or misguided, were for the welfare of their mother. Nicola and Andrew admitted to nursing staff at the hospital what they had done once the incident was discovered."

The couple were granted bail on condition that they surrendered their passports and lived at Pluto Close, Leicester. They then left the court for the funeral.

Their case was adjourned until August 30 for committal proceedings to Leicester Crown Court.

Train driver tackles the littered lines

By PETER DAVENPORT

For more than 30 years as a British Rail engine driver, Bryan North took his trains into most of the main stations throughout the country. His opinion of many of those routes, through trackside decay, dereliction and litter, is unflattering.

"Those rail corridors act as shop windows to the communities which surround them and in many cases they reflect badly and often unfairly on them," he says. "It is hardly the impression they would want to give to visiting business and tourists."

Now Mr North has been given the chance to do something about it. British Rail has seconded the driver, based in Leeds, to work with the Groundwork Foundation, the environmental regeneration group, to develop schemes and generate finance to improve Britain's rail corridors.

In the first 12 months of the project he has put together schemes worth more than £1 million, bringing in finance from the European Commission, British Rail environment fund, local authorities, central government and the private sector.

Projects are under way to improve the view from the carriage window at Leeds city station, in Wakefield, Durham, along the coastal route from Darlington to Newcastle upon Tyne, via Hartlepool and Sunderland, and the Liverpool-Southport line.

Further schemes are under consideration for Manchester and on the Settle-Carlisle route. It is intended that others will follow.

Derelict buildings are being improved, litter removed and sections of track landscaped. Mr North, a Labour councillor in Leeds for the past 11



Mr North: Success has been phenomenal



Up in arms: Teresa Gorman, the Tory MP, with children from Ravensdale House Nursery, Milton Keynes, at the launch in London yesterday of the Campaign for Tax Relief and Childcare, which wants tax relief on workplace nurseries extended to private childminders and crèches

Teachers demand primary test delay

By DAVID TYTLER
EDUCATION EDITOR

TWO main teacher unions will today demand that compulsory testing of pupils aged seven is either withdrawn or postponed for a year because of the extra work required by teachers.

John MacGregor, the education secretary, has said that to reduce the burden on teachers, children at seven and eleven need only be tested in mathematics, English and science, and not all ten National Curriculum subjects as originally planned.

Mr MacGregor is determined to introduce the tests in all 20,000 primary schools in England and Wales next spring but is looking at ways of slimming down the pilot tests that were carried out in 400 primary schools at Easter using three different systems.

Heads and teachers complained that they were too complicated and distressed pupils, parents and staff. Some heads and teachers have said that they would be prepared to break the law and refuse to carry out the standard assessment tasks.

The Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association is asking Mr MacGregor to delay the introduction of testing for a further year. The association says pilot tests have shown the administration of the tasks to be onerous and unmanageable. Doug McAvoy, of the National Union of Teachers, has also urged Mr MacGregor to withdraw the tests, saying that they damaged the education of the children taking the tests and others in the school who were not.

The education department said last night: "The outcome of the pilots is being evaluated and the lessons of that evaluation will be taken on board in developing the tests for 1991."

• Girls are more concerned than boys in improving their education, a report published yesterday says. The survey carried out by local authority careers officers, which looked at 621,000 pupils aged 16 in England and Wales, found that 48 per cent stayed in full-time education, made up of 52.4 per cent girls and 41.7 per cent boys.

Richard Gordon, a barrister who specialises in judicial review, said: "This decision is surprising. Nobody doubted that the High Court had this power in relation to magistrates' courts where abuse of process was alleged; and we have already had a spate of cases on this. What we will now see is a spate of cases reviewing decisions of crown court judges in such cases."

In a second important ruling for the two campaigners yesterday, Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Hutchison also overturned a blanket ban by David Waddington, the home secretary, which stopped the disclosure to them of police documents about the case.

Lord Justice Watkins ordered disclosure to their lawyers of the March 1970 report prepared by Mr Watts.

Mr Pottle, aged 51, a retired London antiques dealer, and Mr Randle, a university te-

Blake escape pair win first round

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

TWO peace campaigners fighting to avoid what they claim would be an oppressive trial for their roles in helping the double agent George Blake escape from Wormwood Scrubs in October 1986, especially as the police had evidence to bring charges against them nearly 20 years ago.

Lord Justice Watkins said the court would give reasons later for its ruling, which has wide-ranging implications, that it has jurisdiction to review a crown court decision [in this case the ruling by a judge at the Central Criminal Court that the pair should stand trial] when it was alleged that a trial could amount to an abuse of the process of the court.

The court will hear legal argument next week on whether the trial, due to take place at the Central Criminal Court, should be allowed to go ahead.

Defence lawyers indicated that they may apply to the court for Rollo Watts, the Special Branch chief inspector then in charge of the investigation into the Blake escape and now retired, to give evidence.

The ruling has implications for delays in the criminal justice system. It confirms that the High Court has a power of review over a crown court where it decides to let proceed a prosecution that is arguably stale because of the delay in bringing it to trial.

Richard Gordon, a barrister who specialises in judicial review, said: "This decision is surprising. Nobody doubted that the High Court had this power in relation to magistrates' courts where abuse of process was alleged; and we have already had a spate of cases on this. What we will now see is a spate of cases reviewing decisions of crown court judges in such cases."

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Mr Pottle, aged 51, a retired London antiques dealer, and Mr Randle, a university te-

acher, aged 56, say that it would be wrong for them to be prosecuted such a long time after Blake's escape from Wormwood Scrubs in October 1986, especially as the police had evidence to bring charges against them nearly 20 years ago.

Lord Justice Watkins said the court would give reasons later for its ruling, which has wide-ranging implications, that it has jurisdiction to review a crown court decision [in this case the ruling by a judge at the Central Criminal Court that the pair should stand trial] when it was alleged that a trial could amount to an abuse of the process of the court.

He ordered that circulation of Mr Watts' report should be confined to Mr Pottle, of Northview Road, Crouch End, north London, and Mr Randle of Hollingwood Lane, Bradford, west Yorkshire, and their lawyers and should only be used for the present litigation.

Philip Havers, counsel for the home secretary, who had opposed disclosure of the documents, said that there might be an appeal to the House of Lords against the court's ruling on jurisdiction but he was not last night giving notice of any appeal on the disclosure point.

As part of a campaign backed by David Trippier, the environment minister, and Roger Freeman, the transport minister, the AA director general called on motorists to use unleaded petrol and install

autocatalysts. Long-term solutions entailed a choice between reduced vehicle ownership and usage, and technological solutions to vehicle emissions.

The former would be totally unacceptable to the majority of the population," Mr Dyer said. Vehicle manufacturers had to give greater priority to developing cleaner, more fuel-efficient cars. The government had to press ahead with the road-building programme to reduce congestion and consequent pollution, and introduce financial incentives to encourage people to use public transport.

• Britain's protectionist trade policies add around 20 per cent to the cost of a Japanese car, the National Consumers Council claims in a report published today (Lin Jenkins writes).

Measures designed to protect the European motor industry push up prices and reduce choice available to consumers and should be abolished in 1992 to create a common market for cars.

A recent study found that UK pre-tax car prices were 61 per cent higher than those in Denmark and 31 per cent higher than prices in Belgium. A Fiat Uno 60S cost £5,177 in the UK, £2,901 in Denmark and £3,859 in Belgium.

Drivers urged to combat pollution

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MOTORISTS must learn to use their vehicles more thoughtfully if their contribution to atmospheric pollution is to be reduced, Simon Dyer, director general of the Automobile Association (AA) said yesterday.

Mr Dyer, launching the AA's voluntary code of practice for reducing dangerous exhaust emissions, called on motorists to think hard about the way they used their vehicles and to use alternatives where possible. He said it was possible to strike a balance between concern for the environment and increased vehicle ownership, providing motorists learned to drive in a manner that was more socially acceptable.

Acknowledging that motorists were responsible for a growing proportion of the greenhouse gases believed to contribute to global warming, Mr Dyer said: "The most direct way to help the environment is to burn less fuel."

As part of a campaign backed by David Trippier, the environment minister, and Roger Freeman, the transport minister, the AA director general called on motorists to use unleaded petrol and install

Student held by Dutch in IRA hunt

A Dutch student, aged 19, has been detained on suspicion of aiding IRA gunmen who killed two Australian tourists in May, police in the Dutch town of Roermond said yesterday. The woman was believed to have rented a hideout in The Hague for the gunmen, according to a police statement.

Police said they had also found a template in her apartment in Amstelveen, a suburb of Amsterdam, which they believe was used to make a bogus number plate for a car used by the gunmen, the statement said. Police apprehended the woman at a Dutch-German border crossing about 16 miles from Roermond on Wednesday.

The suspect, identified by her initials IH, is believed to be the girl friend of an IRA suspect in custody and known only by an assumed name, Andrew Edward Thornton, the statement said. He is being held in connection with the shooting of the Australians Nick Spanos and Stephen Melrose on May 27.

Libel damages

Ajitabh Bachchan, an Indian businessman and friend of Rajiv Gandhi, won substantial libel damages from the English edition of the Swedish paper *Dagens Nyheter* in the High Court over allegations of links with an arms deal scandal.

Driver remanded

Simon Peter Russell, a van driver aged 26, was remanded in custody charged with possession of explosives and violent disorder after police raided his home at Southborough, near Tunbridge Wells.

Matches blamed

Two young children died after being trapped inside a car that had almost certainly been set on fire when one of them played with matches, a coroner said at Sale, Cheshire.

Footballer's win

Paul Gascoigne, the England footballer, won substantial libel damages in the High Court over a *Sunday Mirror* article alleging that he had "cheated on his girl friend" while on tour in Sweden.

Trust fund

News International, the parent company of *The Times*, has donated £3.5 million to establish a community trust for the Wapping area of east London where its main plant is situated.

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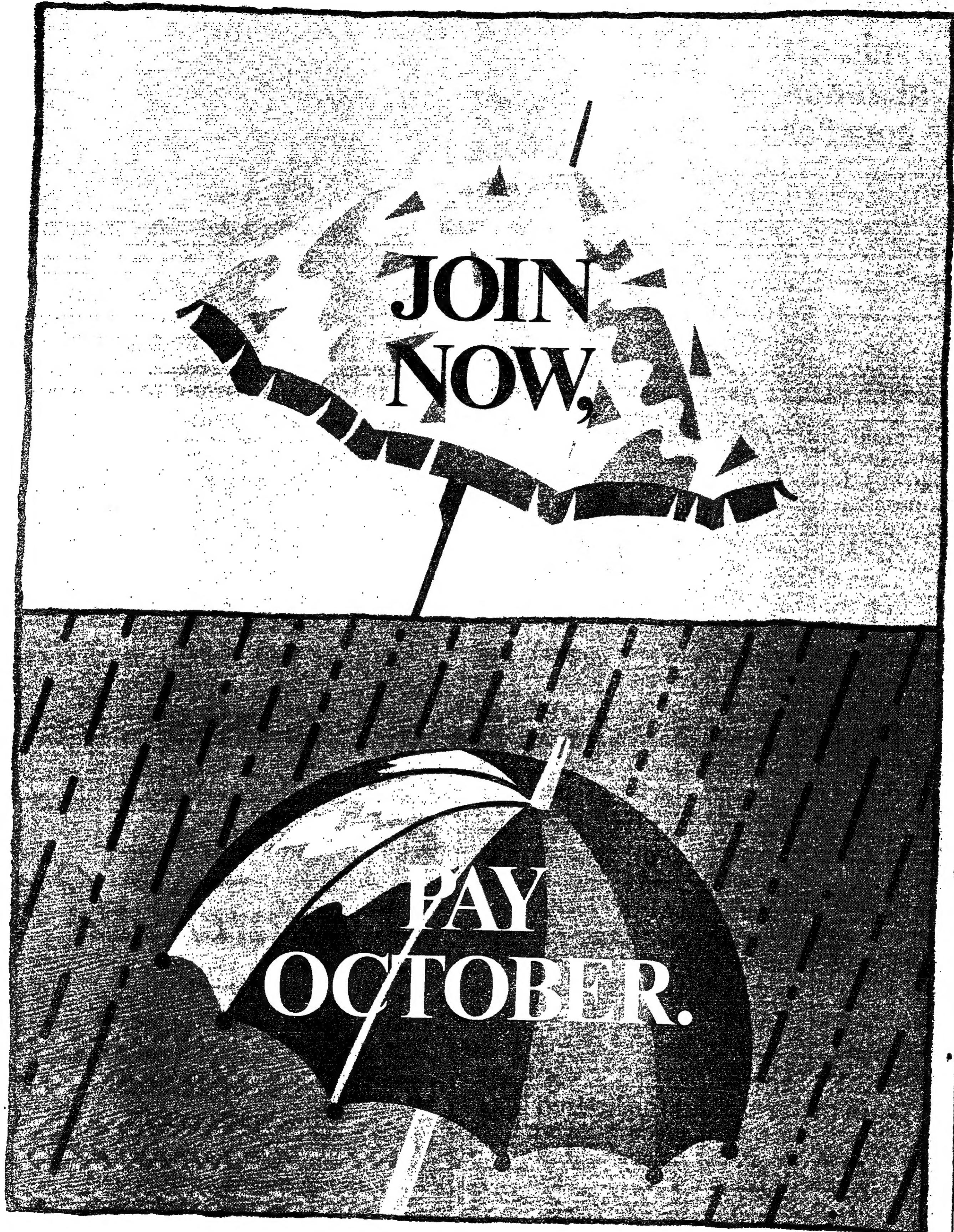
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Tory ME

Second chance on pub tenants

The government is to be given another chance to re-deem its pledge to protect brewery tenants who may face eviction. Lord Williams of Elvel, Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, introduced a bill to give protection to tenants after the government's apology for failing to do so despite the undertaking it had given.

The bill will come up for all its stages in the Lords on Monday and the Opposition is confident that the government will accept it because it makes good a promise made by Lord Teignman, minister for trade.

The doubt is whether the Commons will be prepared to find time for the bill. Labour managers in the Lords say that Labour MPs would pass it swiftly.

Rear-seat rule nearer

The wearing of rear seat belts in cars may become mandatory. MPs were told in a written reply. Robert Atkins, roads and traffic minister, said that 307 rear-seat passengers who were not wearing belts were killed in 1988 and nearly 4,000 seriously injured. Research indicated that two-thirds of those casualties could have been saved by the wearing of belts.

Now that most cars have rear belts, the time was approaching when it would be reasonable to consider the introduction of mandatory wearing by adults.

Rail move

The Railway Inspectorate is to be transferred in the autumn to the Health and Safety Executive. Cecily Parkinson, transport secretary, said in a written reply.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

Monday: Motion for the summer recess and consolidated Fund Bill debates on a variety of topics.

Tuesday: Debate on Opposition motion on the economy.

Wednesday: Courts and Legal Services Bill, remaining stages.

Thursday: Summer recess debates.

The main business in the House of Lords is expected to be:

Monday: British Nationality (Hong Kong) Bill and Landlord and tenant (Licensed Premises) Bill, third reading. Employment Bill, report.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: Broadcasting Bill, committee continued.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on private member's motion on promoting good health. Lords (11): Finance Bill, all stages.

Hard-left purge is welcomed

By RONALD FAULKNER

THE Labour leader of Liverpool City Council yesterday welcomed the prospect of a new purge of hard-left councillors by the Labour party's national executive.

Commenting on speculation that a further 14 Labour councillors in Liverpool are to be suspended as well as the city's district Labour party and its women's council, Harry Rimmer said: "Disciplinary action is necessary and I believe there will be further suspensions. It is sad that this council is once again the subject of an inquiry, but if the decision clears the air then it is to be welcomed."

Fifteen Labour councillors of a total of 67 are already suspended for defying the party whip when they voted against the poll tax.

The latest rebels voted against attempts by the council to balance the city's books with a rise in council house rents which have remained frozen for several years.

Mr Rimmer, a Kinnock supporter, said it was doubtful that the divisions in the council would amount to a serious split.

Tory MEPs press for single currency

By OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

BRITISH Conservative members of the European Parliament are intensifying their efforts to encourage the government to accept a single European currency and an independent central bank.

Sir Christopher Prout, leader of the British Conservatives, and Mr John Stevens, Conservative MEP for Thames Valley, gave evidence yesterday to the House of Lords select committee on monetary and political union.

Afterwards Mr Stevens said that Britain could not hope to enter the European monetary union slowly as it was the exchange-rate mechanism of the European monetary system. If the rest of the Community decided on economic and monetary union and Britain refused to accept it, as ministers have suggested it would, then that would be tantamount to stepping outside the EC and applying for re-entry, he said. Mon-

Hopes fading for early success of Brooke talks

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

N IRELAND

HOPES are fading that Peter Brooke will be able to announce to Parliament next week that he has reached agreement on a framework for talks in the autumn on devolution in Northern Ireland.

Mr Brooke has held lengthy discussions with Irish government ministers to overcome difficulties that had led them to block his plan to announce details of his initiative two weeks ago.

He told MPs yesterday that he believed that the differences had narrowed, but he admitted there was still a gap.

The stumbling block remains the precise moment when the Irish government will become involved in a three-tier series of talks involving the constitutional parties in the North, links between the North and South, and relations between London and Dublin.

A new proposal to overcome the difficulty raised by the Irish government's role in the talks is believed to have been submitted to Mr Brooke by the Social Democratic and Labour party. It focuses on the timing and nature of so-called "North-South" negotiations and was worked out by party officials after meetings with ministers in Dublin.

Although no details of the SDLP plan are available and no meetings have been scheduled by Mr Brooke to discuss it with Unionists, SDLP sources describe it as an attempt to address the concerns of all parties to the process.

Mr Brooke had intended to make a full statement to the Commons before the summer recess which begins next Thurs-

day, but last night that prospect appeared to be fading. In the past he had indicated that a failure to make a statement would risk the whole process unravelling, but officials now say he is under no pressure from MPs to make a statement and that all sides would rather he continued with his efforts than that a parliamentary deadline should be imposed.

In private, all parties are positioning themselves in readiness to apportion blame if the initiative fails. However, in the Commons nationalist and Unionist politicians held back from pointing the accusatory finger.

Mr Brooke praised the results shown by all constitutional parties in the North during the past two weeks. He said that a large measure of agreement had been reached about the various preliminary points of principle and also about the structure, format and timing any talks might have.

It is of course for the other potential participants in these talks to assess the best interests of those they represent. But, given the potential benefits of political dialogue, my own judgment is that, with continuing good will, the outstanding matters which divide them could be resolved so that talks could be convened.

"I am ready to continue my efforts to facilitate the process, but such an announcement clearly cannot yet be made."

Unionist politicians are increasingly pessimistic about the chances of Mr Brooke's being able to overcome the existing difficulties and they say that it is the Irish government and the SDLP that are blocking movement on a possible way forward. One leading Unionist said: "If this process breaks down, our hands will be clean. It will not be our fault."

At question time in the Com-



Peter Brooke, who said a gap remained

mons, Ivor Stanbrook (Orpington, C) said that honest negotiations had been doomed the moment Charles Haughey (the Irish prime minister) insisted that the republic should be consulted at every stage of the negotiations.

Mr Brooke told him that the involvement of the Irish government in internal talks had not been an issue. Dublin acknowledged that it would not be directly involved in any inter-party talks about internal arrangements for the government of Northern Ireland. "But there was general recognition that any comprehensive political accommodation must emerge from a process of dialogue involving all main constitutional parties in Northern Ireland and the British and Irish governments."

David Alton (Liverpool, Mossley Hill, Lib Dem) said that sooner or later a decision would have to be made that those who

used the strategy of the Armalite and the bomb in one hand and the ballot box in the other must forgo the right to stand for election to Parliament.

Mr Brooke said that he kept the question of proscription of organisations constantly under review.

Barry Porter (Wirral South, C) said Mr Brooke should cease the pretence that the Anglo-Irish agreement had achieved any of its fundamental aims. It had not. He wished Mr Brooke success in his discussions, but there was no reason to blame those MPs who represented the Unionist cause, who had shown good will towards reaching some agreement. "Let us put the blame, if these talks fail, where it lies - on Dublin."

Mr Brooke said that the talks he was engaged in were likely to make more progress if they concentrated on looking forward.

Thatcher accused of ratting on pledge

PRIME MINISTER

MARGARET Thatcher was accused of "ratting" on her promise to pay for care in the community during a question-and-answer session with Neil Kinlock, leader of the Opposition.

The prime minister replied by comparing Labour's record with that of the present government and saying that, while Labour talked, the government acted, and that certain aspects of the community care programme were going ahead.

Mr Kinlock said the concern about the family that Mrs Thatcher expressed in her speech on Wednesday would be widely shared and was praiseworthy. "Given that concern, can she tell us what she thinks most damages families the highest mortgages in history, the poll tax, the freeze of child benefit or abandonment of community care?"

Mrs Thatcher said that the greatest material support the government could give families was to keep the economy going, producing the highest number of jobs in the country's history, the lowest standard of living, the best social services and the highest standards of personal support to lone-parent families.

Mr Kinlock then replied that the unbridgeable gap between what she says is her concern for the family and what she is prepared to do about it.

It was announced yesterday that the government is rating on its pledge to provide help for people who care for elderly and disabled people at home and for some of the most needy and certainly some of the most deserving people in the whole land.

Mrs Thatcher: Local authorities are spending half as much again on personal social services over and above inflation than in 1979: a total of 32 per cent on day care; 26 per cent on home helps and 13 per cent on meals services for disabled and elderly people in residential and nursing homes; and for every £1 that Labour spent we are spending £10. They talk. We deliver the goods.

Prime minister getting ready for manifesto

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

MARGARET Thatcher raised the political tempo by asking her ministers at yesterday's cabinet meeting each to set up a policy group attached to his department to begin preparing ideas for the election manifesto. The groups will be set up in the autumn and will be expected to complete their work by early next year.

The prime minister was not intending to put her MPs on a war footing, but she wishes to keep open the option of an election next summer, despite the expectation of Kenneth Baker, the party chairman, that the contest will be in 1992. If the policy-making process had been any later, it would have been too late for detailed plans to be ready for a manifesto next summer.

Final membership will not be settled until the autumn, but will definitely include John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, Kenneth Baker, David Waddington, the Home secretary, and John Wakeham, the energy secretary.

The secretariat of the manifesto committee will be provided by Downing Street, by Robin Harris, the former director of the Conservative research department now in the policy unit, and by John Whittingdale, the prime minister's political secretary.

Mrs Thatcher has been inviting in groups of backbenchers over the past few months for general policy discussions and she has in recent weeks entertained most of the Conservative-inclined think tanks such as the Centre for Policy Studies. Mrs Thatcher will take charge of shaping the party's electoral

Year's takeover ban

TAKEOVERS are to be banned for only a year after television companies begin broadcasting under their new franchises in 1993. Earl Ferrers, the Home Office minister, stuck to the government's proposal that the moratorium on takeovers, enabling the new companies to avoid immediate takeover bids, should be for only 12 months, despite the demands of Labour and the Liberal Democrats for at least two years.

The minister was defending the government's moratorium proposals during the committee stage of the Broadcasting Bill in the Lords.

He said the prospect of takeovers was an important market discipline, but that did not mean there would be a free-for-all. If there were takeovers after the moratorium, the new owners would still be subject to the oversight of the Independent Television Commission.

Although the ban on takeovers would be for a year from the moment broadcasting began in 1993, it would really take effect from the issue of the licences up to a year before, so that the new companies would have two years to prepare.

Lady Birk, Labour spokesman on broadcasting, said the Opposition was grateful for the concession, but it would be much more sensible to have the additional year.

Britain 'marginalised on EC'

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR Leon Brittan implicitly criticised the prime minister last night for her attitudes towards sovereignty and the development of the European Community. Without mentioning Margaret Thatcher by name, he said that Britain was being marginalised by those who kept returning to the issue of sovereignty and continued to misrepresent the community.

In the wake of Nicholas Ridley's resignation from the government, Sir Leon told a meeting of the Bruges group that for some people the debate over Europe never seemed to move on.

Sir Leon, vice-president of the European Commission, said at the meeting in London: "Too often Britain is marginalised by those who continue to worry away at the bone of sovereignty and by those who perpetuate a caricature of what the community represents".

People were perplexed by the mixed signals they received about the community and Britain risked being ignored because the rest of the EC was bored with such attitudes.

He made no reference to Mrs Thatcher in

his speech, but the thrust of his argument was a contradiction of her concern at the possible loss of more British sovereignty. It was a myth that national honour required Britain to take a vow of legislative chastity, Sir Leon said.

There had been a sincere but misguided tendency to parade and legitimise the status quo under the colours of national sovereignty, but sovereignty should not be considered a theoretical or constitutional absolute. It was a practical concept.

Sir Leon added: "We pride ourselves, after all, on our pragmatism. Yet, all too often, it is the British who have become doctrinaire... Westminster sometimes seems less interested in how it can best exert practical influence on questions of concern to Britain than in how it can preserve the illusion of omnipotence and the trappings of power."

He outlined a proposal for a committee, of members from each of the 12 national parliaments, to provide a link between the council of ministers and the member states.

also marked down as a potential minister. As a leading Labour lawyer, he is near the top of the shortlist for the woolsack in a Labour government. The other main candidate will be Lord Irvine of Lairg, a recorder.

Lord Clinton-Davis is also willing to return to ministerial office and is adding weight to the Labour benches on European and environmental issues as a former EC commissioner.

The deputy leader of the Labour peers, Lord Grenfell, who is returning to Britain from Washington this summer where he has been the White House's special adviser. Some front bench candidates have returned to the Lords from other careers.

Among them are expected to be Lord Williams of Elvel, likely to stay as Labour's chief trade and industry spokesman. He has spent 20 years in the City. The former social services secretary, Lord Ennals, while continuing to be active in the Lords as chief health spokesman, at 67 is unlikely to want a lower ministerial post.

Lord Graham of Edmonton, a former Labour MP, has been elected chief whip after the death of the hereditary peer, Lord Ponsonby. Labour peers are hoping that Fred Ponsonby, aged 32, who is a Wandsworth councillor, will take over his father's seat.

when they had borne the pain of Eastern European development on their own and their investment was beginning to pay off.

Mr Stevens said that it was impossible to conceive of Britain operating a second tier membership of the EC, as Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, had suggested on Sunday that it might. With an open economy such as we had, a second tier was possible only if the economy was re-regulated and exchange controls were reimposed.

The British Conservative MEPs have rejected the hard core plan of John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr Stevens said that they did not believe in an expanded stage of the Delors plan and in parallel currencies. But Mr Major's plan was an important contribution to the search for ways of exerting anti-inflationary financial discipline and preventing EC members overborrowing by means of the market rather than through a supra-national authority.

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Bulgaria risks new turmoil as Zhivkov seeks revenge

From TIM JUDAH IN SOFIA

DURING its first week in existence, Bulgaria's new parliament has succeeded in ensuring the country's political turmoil will increase by inviting the country's former dictator, Todor Zhivkov, to appear before it.

Two weeks ago, President Mladov resigned following a damaging political scandal. By standing down before the opening of parliament, he left the country in a constitutional mess. Parliament has not elected a new president and the government has been paralysed.

The invitation to the former communist dictator will only make the situation worse. Mr Zhivkov ruled Bulgaria with an iron hand for 35 years. Last November he was toppled in an internal party coup and was arrested soon afterwards. On Wednesday, he was released as the authorities had failed to come up with a credible case against him.

But Mr Zhivkov is unrepentant, and, according to Roumen Vodenicharov, a human rights activist and opposition MP, he is angry at the way he was treated by his former colleagues.

After his fall, Mr Zhivkov's communist party was renamed the Socialist party and went on to win last month's elections. However, the leadership remained largely intact, and a vengeful Mr Zhivkov threatens to destroy these men.

"It's a risk we have to face," said Chavdar Kyurianov, the socialist presidential candidate.

But the socialists face a greater risk than simply losing a few top figures. For Mr Zhivkov's threatened revelation could accelerate the

disintegration of a party already split between conservatives and social democratically-inclined reformers.

Meanwhile, to the fury of the trade unions, the Zhivkov debate and the parliament's interminable constitutional wrangle have further delayed the crucial economic decisions that must be made. In the first six months of this year inflation and unemployment have begun shooting up, productivity is declining rapidly and many staple products have simply run out.

There are queues for bread and those seeking petrol may have to wait for up to ten hours. The unions have issued a statement saying that they demand: "The formation of a working and competent government without any further delay." If this and other points are not met by Monday then they have promised to start a series of nationwide strikes.

Emiljan Abadchiev, a union official, said: "We have no intention of watching passively as this country remains on the periphery of changes within Eastern Europe or its falling prey to inter-party strife and thus ending up in international isolation again."

According to one western diplomat, unless something is done quickly this is exactly what will happen to Bulgaria. He said: "Officialdom here is immensely naive. For example, they want Western aid but they don't understand that they have to go and lobby for it. They think Western governments are simply going to come here and give them millions of dollars."

As if the political and economic problems were not urgent enough, Bulgarian nationalists have, in the past few days, paralysed local government in the south-eastern town of Kardzhali by preventing access to all municipal buildings. They are protesting against the election by the one-million strong Turkish minority of their own MPs, who have duly taken their seats in parliament.

According to Kardzhali's nationalists, the ethnic Turks party, the Movement for Rights and Freedoms, is a "terrorist organisation". But its leader, Ahmed Dogan, made one of the most measured and conciliatory speeches when parliament opened. "We are all Bulgarians," he said, "we must all work together for the best interest of our fatherland." So far his words have fallen on deaf ears.

Mongolia vows to open up economy

From REUTER
IN ULAN BATOR

MONGOLIA's Communist party, preparing to face the voters for the first time since seizing power 69 years ago, plans to allow ownership of private property and may sell off state assets.

Kinayat Zardykhyan, the deputy prime minister, said that the reform process would move ahead after the country's first free elections on July 29, which the communists are widely expected to win.

"We must quickly adopt a law on private property and open our economy to all foreign countries," he said. Mr Zardykhyan, a key figure in the party's reform wing, said Mongolia would consider allowing foreign firms to take over ailing industries and he also wanted to develop co-operative companies.

Mongolia at present has no private industry. It is still considered illegal under its communist system, which is the oldest after the Soviet Union. However, the government has recently issued permits for four private companies, and has approved 420 new co-operatives in recent months.

The communists, officially known as the Mongolian People's Revolutionary party, are expected to win the elections because of their organisation, support among nomadic herders and a fragmented opposition. But, diplomats said, the communists now sounded less and less like marxists.

Their quick, whispered comments suggested that the discontent that drove thousands of Albanians to seek refuge in embassies in Tirana, the capital, was present in other regions. "There's nothing in this country to live for," declared a young economist angrily.

Like the others interviewed, he declined to be identified.



Uniform protest: hundreds of East German policemen demonstrating in Berlin yesterday in a demand for improved working conditions

Wrangle over Berlin's Soviet arsenal

From ANNE McELVOY IN EAST BERLIN

THE Soviet Union and the two Germanies are locked in a new tangle over military equipment supplied by Moscow to East Germany over years of close Warsaw Pact co-operation.

With East Germany set to join Nato after unification, its forces have no further use for the hardware. The West German government wants to return to Moscow Soviet tanks, ships and aircraft after unification in December when East German forces will become part of the Bundeswehr.

The hardware includes new MiG-29 fighter-jets still awaiting delivery, as well as older combat aircraft such as Su-22s, MiG-23s and MiG-21s.

Moscow is reluctant to take back the equipment because of

the estimated DM 100 million (£33 million) cost of destroying it under the terms of the Convention on Conventional Forces in Europe treaty.

Chief Lieutenant Uwe Hempel, a spokesman for the East German Volksarmee, said yesterday that East Berlin had received assurances that Moscow would take back the equipment. The thorny question of who will meet the cost of destroying it is currently the subject of high-level negotiations. "It is a costly business," said Jane's Defence Weekly.

East Germany is thought to have over 2,000 tanks, 800 artillery pieces and 380 combat aircraft. The cost of destroying a single T-72 tank, is estimated at DM 60,000.

Bonn has said that it will honour East German contracts for Soviet deliveries even if it means returning the unused equipment.

Rainer Eppelmann, the East German defence minister,

would pose logistical problems.

"We have no use for Soviet equipment in our armed forces. We are not going to fly MiGs or train in T-72 tanks. They can have them back and we may even pay them for it," a high-ranking West German source was quoted as telling Jane's Defence Weekly.

East Germany is thought to have over 2,000 tanks, 800 artillery pieces and 380 combat aircraft. The cost of destroying a single T-72 tank, is estimated at DM 60,000.

Bonn has said that it will honour East German contracts for Soviet deliveries even if it means returning the unused equipment.

Rainer Eppelmann, the East German defence minister,

meanwhile confirmed that the separate identity of the Volksarmee will disappear at the beginning of next year when soldiers will be given new Bundeswehr uniforms.

"We will be one country with one army," he said, adding that he did not expect any resistance to the move.

Herr Eppelmann also confirmed that investigations were under way to track down Soviet chemical weapons delivered to East Germany. Volksarmee sources had disclosed that the weapons were being stockpiled at bases outside East Berlin.

As the union of the two Germanies progresses, more than 40,000 East Germans are being made unemployed every week as the outdated

economy comes to terms with the currency merger.

Ludwig de Maiziere, the prime minister, said yesterday: "He ap-

pealed to enterprises to put their workers on half-time shifts before making them redundant."

● BONN: A majority of West Germans want their reunited country to be called simply Deutschland, according to a poll (Ian Murray writes).

The Mannheim electoral research group survey showed 53 per cent preferred the name by itself, 30 per cent favoured the present title, Bundesrepublik Deutschland (Federal Republic of Germany), and 11 per cent opted for Republik Deutschland. Three per cent wanted the old name of Deutsches Reich.

In his view, the changed economic relations with these countries would alter both Germanies' security interests and the need for them to spy. Although political changes often took a long time to be reflected by the secret services, he was not without hope that the networks set up against West Germany would be wound down as political relations developed.

The collapse of communism in Eastern Europe had weakened the various communists and other extreme left-wing groups in West Germany, according to the report. At the same time, there had been a rise in the numbers of right-wing extremists and associated violence.

The report estimated that

there were around 41,000 members of various left-wing groups, and about 40,000 on the far-right. The left-wingers were more inclined to violence, committing 837 criminal assaults during the year compared with 103 by the right-wing. Of those carried out by the left, 101 were classified as terrorist attacks, including the murder by the Red Army Faction of Alfred Herrhausen, president of the Deutsche Bank. The right-wingers were responsible for racist attacks, setting fire to the homes of asylum seekers and foreigners.

Herr Schäuble was not sur-

prised by the findings.

What was not up for debate,

it was made clear, was Cuba's commitment to socialism and the one-party state. Nor will there be any toyng with capitalism or direct election of the president.

To the party's dismay, dis-

cussion at grass-roots meet-

ings the first time around

confined itself to the usual

complaints about the econ-

omy and work problems,

while the bigger questions it

wanted to hear about were

largely avoided.

The people didn't feel

confident talking about these

issues," a University of Ha-

vana professor said. "There is

a sense of participation," she said. "This is lacking."

The mass meetings were

suspended in April while the

party went back to the draw-

ing board to find ways of

persuading the tongue-tied

populace to open up. They

began again two weeks ago,

after a series of internal de-

bates by party-related institu-

tions which received wide

coverage on Cuban television.

They were designed to give

the ordinary folk a better idea of

what the government had in

mind.

"We are asking people to

judge all we have done up to

now, and to look to the future

to see how we should go on,"

explained the central com-

munity's ideological secretary,

Carlos Alida.

"We are asking people to be

honest ... it's fundamental

to a solution.

● MADRID: Diplomatic

relations between Cuba and

Spain were described as

"rather cold" by a spokesman

at the foreign ministry here

yesterday, as the recalled

Spanish ambassador returned

to Madrid.

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Former Stasi agents to get amnesty

From IAN MURRAY
IN BONN

FORMER members of the East German Stasi secret police are likely to be given an amnesty from prosecution but they will not be allowed to work as counter-espionage agents in a unified Germany, Walter Schäuble, the West German interior minister, said yesterday.

Presenting the annual report of the Federal Office for Protection of the Constitution (BfV), the equivalent of MI5, Herr Schäuble said that the amnesty would probably be written into the "second state" treaty being drawn up to complete the legal merging of the two countries. It would extend to those agents who had been involved in collecting information, but not to those who might be guilty of human rights abuses.

Information about East Germans "collected" by the Stasi would not be used although it would be possible for individuals to consult their files to clear them, and possibly to make damage claims, he said.

The role of the BfV after reunification was still being discussed. Much of its energy has been concentrated on counter-espionage from East Germany and from the old communists. Despite the upheavals and changes in the past year, the office had not noticed any decrease in the amount of spying activity during 1989, although Herr Schäuble said that since the beginning of the year there had been a clear change.

In his view, the changed economic relations with these countries would alter both Germanies' security interests and the need for them to spy. Although political changes often took a long time to be reflected by the secret services, he was not without hope that the networks set up against West Germany would be wound down as political relations developed.

The collapse of communism in Eastern Europe had weakened the various communists and other extreme left-wing groups in West Germany, according to the report. At the same time, there had been a rise in the numbers of right-wing extremists and associated violence.

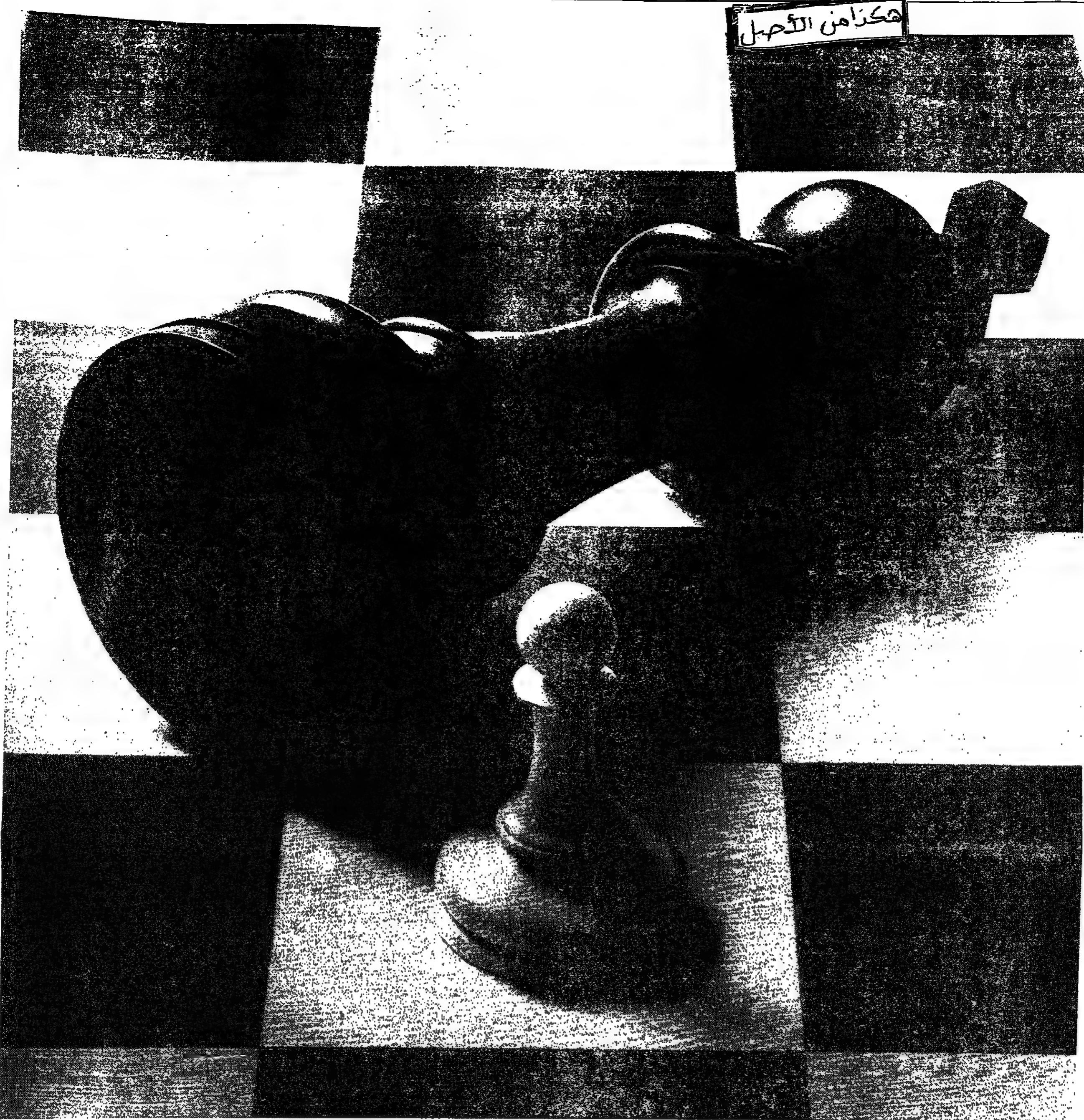
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Herr Schäuble was not surprised by the findings. What was not up for debate, it was made clear, was Cuba's commitment to socialism and the one-party state. Nor will there be any toyng with capitalism or direct election of the president.

To the party's dismay, discussion at grass-roots meetings the first time around confined itself to the usual complaints about the economy and work problems, while the bigger questions it wanted to hear about were largely avoided.

The people didn't feel confident talking about these issues," a University of Havana professor said. "There is an inhibition so the debate was paralysed."

<p



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Kuwait hits back at Iraq in letter to Arab League

By HAZHIR TEIMOURIAN

KUWAIT hit back at Iraq yesterday with a letter to the Arab League in Tunis, in which it levelled against Iraq some of the charges that Iraq had laid at its door: occupation of a border region and illegal exploitation of an oilfield.

The likelihood of war breaking out between the former Gulf war allies was ruled out by local analysts, but Kuwaitis living in Baghdad began to leave in large numbers, while President Saddam Hussein announced the first step of his programme to turn Iraq into a

democracy: he said a new constitution, now in its final drafting stage, would make him president for life.

In its letter, Kuwait not only refuted Iraq's accusations that it had erected military posts and drilled oil wells in Iraqi territory, but also said that for a number of years it had quietly protested to Iraq about the occupation of part of its land by Iraqi forces. In language hitherto reserved for Israel, Kuwait's foreign minister described Iraq's accusations as "distortions of facts".

The two countries fought a

border war in 1973 that left a part of their common border undefined. But then Iraq was a feeble military power, while today it is described as the most powerful in the Arab world. Two years after the end of the war with Iran, Iraq maintains 800,000 men under arms, which partly explains its shortage of foreign currency, which is behind its complaints against its richer neighbours.

In an attempt to lower tension, Saudi Arabia broke its nervous silence by announcing that King Fahd had telephoned President Hussein and Sheikh Jaber al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait, urging them to show restraint. The United States also issued a statement that it would help maintain "the individual and collective security of its friends in the region", though some diplomats doubted whether the Iraqi leader, in his present clearly expansionist mood, would take much notice of it for the time being.

The eyes of the Arab world will now be on the next ministerial meeting of Opec in Geneva on Friday. But Baghdad's main charge, of the violation of its land by Kuwait, appears likely to remain a festering wound.

"I know him well, Saddam will not be satisfied until he has humiliated Kuwait," said a writer on the life history of the Iraqi leader.

"And if he is to have another war, he would rather have it now than he is 53 than when he is 63."

Rescuers under fire on Shia battlefield

From OUR CORRESPONDENT IN BEIRUT

RESCUE teams braved artillery shells to pull out 11 bodies yesterday from front lines separating rival Shia gunmen who have been locked in fierce battles for control of southern Lebanon since Sunday.

More than 45 people have been killed and 152 wounded in this latest round of fighting, pitting the pro-Syrian Amal militia against the Iranian-backed Hezbollah (the Party of God). Their on-off struggle began in April 1988, and has so far been responsible for killing 1,000 people.

Thirteen ambulances and medical vehicles of the Inter-

national Committee of the Red Cross and the Lebanese Red Cross moved slowly up to the village of Jarou, 24 miles southeast of Beirut, during a precarious full. Rescue workers, wearing striking orange outfits and waving Red Cross flags, fanned out for a search, and two hours later returned with 11 bodies. A security source said the dead were all Amal militiamen.

The rescue operation was interrupted when Red Cross teams came under shellfire from Amal artillery. The rescue teams immediately withdrew from the area, leaving behind six bodies.



Flood victims near Calcutta take to a boat after monsoon-fed rivers swamped thousands of villages, killing 360 and making millions homeless

Setback for Cambodia peace plan

From A CORRESPONDENT IN SYDNEY

JAMES Baker's statement in Paris on Wednesday that the United States will no longer recognise the Cambodian tripartite coalition, or its presence at the United Nations, has dealt a serious blow to the Australian peace plan for Cambodia.

White the American Secretary of State emphasised that the United States' shift in

policy was to prevent the Khmer Rouge regaining power in Cambodia and would not affect its support to the resistance coalition's two non-communist factions (led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Son Sann, the former prime minister).

The Australian peace initiative depends on these factions remaining strong, to force the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government towards a solution to the 11-year impasse.

The Australian plan, first floated by the minister for foreign affairs and trade, Gareth Evans, after the Vietnamese withdrew from Cambodia last year, proposed similar measures to those implemented in Namibia. A peacekeeping force was to be sent to Cambodia for between six months and a year, while the country prepared for free elections monitored by a UN delegation.

Mr Evans's ideas were deemed unrealistic by the US almost from the start. It was thought that Cambodia was too much in flux for the plan to succeed, and there were misgivings about the UN's ability to manage the military, administrative and political structures needed by the initiative. The cost of the operation, estimated at more than US \$1 billion (£550 million), was another factor.

Mr Baker's proposals are simpler and cheaper, relying on the promise of talks, and possible economic aid, to encourage Vietnam to use its influence in shifting Phnom Penh towards free elections.

Mr Evans, who has made his Cambodian peace plan something of a showpiece of Australian foreign policy, must be seen as having suffered a setback in the change in American policy.

This comes at a time when the Cambodian problem is again becoming a sensitive political issue for the Labor government. Recent media reports have warned of a fresh influx of Cambodian boat people into Australia, and the opposition has emphasised that, without a Cambodian settlement, there will be little chance of an end to the refugee problem.

It now seems unlikely that it will be a Labor-led initiative that will bring about this settlement.

Leading article, page 15

Hopes fade for quake victims

From A CORRESPONDENT IN MANILA

AS THE death toll in Monday's earthquake rose to more than 600, American, British and Japanese teams continued to search for the dozens of people still trapped under collapsed buildings, although hopes of bringing them out alive are fading.

The extent of the damage is extensive. Governors and mayors in small towns have now pleaded for help, saying there are no rescue operations in their area.

Red Cross and civil defence officials said about 1,000 people were injured and about 100,000 left homeless. A group of 16 British experts have been working on the site of the collapsed Philippines Christian College in Cabanatuan City, the quake's epicentre.

The team, led by Guy McCorley, also flew to Baguio, the hardest hit in the earthquake. The United States has sent a 20-man relief team and Japan has sent a 26-strong search group, with sniffer dogs.

Messages of sympathy and pledges of help continue to arrive. Britain said it was turning over \$35,000-worth of medicine to the Philippine Red Cross and Tokyo said it would give \$300,000 to victims and survivors.

Sagan sues over puppet portrayal

From PHILLIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

FRANCOISE Sagan's life and times have encompassed more than a few bruising encounters with alcohol, drugs, gambling and the French tax authorities. To her credit, the distinguished author and playwright has usually taken them on the chin without complaint, even when fellow intellectuals are rallying to her cause.

But enough is enough, and Sagan has just announced that she is taking a cable television network, Canal Plus, to court for "an intolerable attack on her image, her name and her personality". The case arises from the puppet that represents her on a popular satirical show called *Nulle Part Ailleurs* (Nowhere else but here) which is transmitted at peak viewing time and can usually be received by non-subscribers.

According to Sagan's lawyer, she is depicted as an dishevelled old bat, butting in on every conversation, wild-eyed and gesticulating. What's more, he maintains the puppet's appearance is "bestial" and its voice comes across in a sort of belly-rumble that requires translation in subtitles.

Hilarious stuff, and all the more so, perhaps, because Sagan was unsuccessful in an action a couple of years ago to get the puppet banished from French screens. On that occasion, she did at least secure the agreement of Canal Plus to drop sequences linking her to drug-taking, on the grounds

that she was then awaiting prosecution for possession of cocaine.

Last March, Sagan was convicted of the charges, receiving a six-month suspended jail sentence and a fine of £45,000. One of her complaints against Canal Plus now is that the Sagan puppet is frequently shown with a runny nose, a common side-effect of cocaine use.

Although the case will not be heard until after France's inviolable long summer holiday, the self-appointed cultural élite of Paris are already taking sides. Should Sagan have risen above this rude assault, demonstrating that the most creative and sensitive souls do not lack a sense of humour, or is she striking a valiant blow against the bararians on behalf of intellectuals (a full-time profession here)?

We are talking of a community which scrambled to sign a petition supporting a court action against Sagan after she was accused of those cocaine offences. "Charge us too!" declared an array of writers, poets, actors and hangers-on in an open letter to the authorities, acknowledging that they had also indulged others who had not been offered the chance to sign complained bitterly to the organisers of the petition.

At Canal Plus, straight bat was the order of the day: "Some people find our caricatures funny, others don't." They point out that Sagan is the only person to resort to law after being put through the wringer on *Nulle Part Ailleurs*, where government ministers and prominent politicians, newscasters, showbusiness figures and captains of industry are lampooned without mercy.

If Sagan has her way, the case could cost the show 1.5 million francs (about £150,000) for "gratuitous soiling" of her image; whether eventual success in court would encourage others who take similar exception to their puppets remains to be seen.

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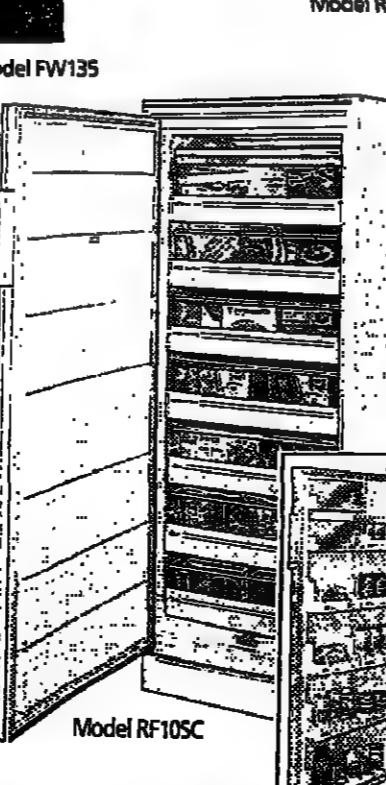
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Sagan objects to "soiling" of her image on TV show

UN seeks leader to end divisions in drug campaign

By ANDREW MCLEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, IN VIENNA

DIVISIONS within the main United Nations drugs agencies have been spotlighted in a confidential report calling for an internationally known figure to lead the world fight against drugs.

Several governments, including that of Britain, are concerned that rivalries among UN officials, and disputes over who does what, are making the UN bodies less effective than they should be. Fifteen experts, including a former British ambassador, will meet in Vienna on Monday to complete a report recommending important changes. It will be used by Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN secretary-general, to make recommendations for the General Assembly, which is expected to order a re-organisation.

The main bodies are the Economic and Social Council, responsible for policy, which is the parent body of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, an inter-governmental expert group meeting once a year to examine the work of the Division of Narcotic

Drugs, which acts as the secretariat of the commission. The International Narcotics Control Board, a quasi-judicial body which monitors compliance with drug treaties and of trade and production of legal and illegal drugs, and in turn has a secretariat of 21 technical experts.

A draft of the report, circulating in Vienna, proposes that all UN anti-drugs activities should come under one internationally-known leader.

Margaret Anstee, the UN drugs co-ordinator and head of the UN office in Vienna, supports the plan as a long-term goal, but wants it introduced slowly. She fears that rapid change could disrupt agencies which she considers are working well, and says the real problem is under-funding.

Asked if she would be a candidate for the new post, she said that was premature.

Giuseppe di Gennaro, director of the UN fund for drug abuse control, strongly supported the proposals, amazed what he said was the bureaucratic approach of the UN, said there were too many seminars and not enough action, and hoped to be a candidate for the new post.

Abdelaziz Bahi, secretary of the International Narcotics Control Board, feared he would no longer be able to report directly to his board. He claimed that empire-building by certain unnamed persons, lay behind the plan.

The British government is among those most concerned. Lynda Chalker, minister for overseas development, gave a veiled hint in an interview that Britain's future contributions could be in question if matters did not improve.

In a speech last month she called for "an end to bickering over rival claims of competence" between different UN agencies ... an end to empire building throughout the UN system".

Miss Anstee agreed, but said the demand came from governments, not UN officials. Whenever the general assembly was unable to agree, it asked the secretary-general to write another report.

A further criticism made of Signor di Gennaro's agency and of the Division of Narcotic Drugs (one of the two agencies over which Miss Anstee has some powers) is that they overlap. Western diplomatic sources said there was duplication of the work to reduce demand for drugs, and of research and technical services. The agencies also failed to share their support services fully. Miss Anstee acknowledged some duplication but both she and Signor di Gennaro felt it was not the main problem.

The murder of Mendes, a rubber tapper and union leader, in December 1988, and extensive burning in the Amazon forests that year, provoked an international outcry and heightened pressure on Brazil to improve its environmental record. At a time of growing world concern for the environment, the film is expected to become a box-office



Heron guardian: a Mohawk warrior taking a break during the 10-day-old road and bridge blockade set up by Indians challenging the Quebec authorities over a new golf course which they claim would encroach on sacred burial grounds

Italy leads Middle East initiative

Brussels — Italy will lead a EC delegation to Israel and Tunisia next week in a fresh attempt to resolve the Middle East impasse. It will also head a mission to Albania in September (Michael Binyon writes).

The initiatives highlight Italy's determination to play a key role as president of the EC. The Middle East mission is the first serious EC attempt to play a role in the region in 10 years. It will include foreign ministers from Ireland, Italy and Luxembourg.

Publisher dies

Paris — Georges Dargaud, who launched the popular *Tintin* magazine and *Asterix* comic-book series, has died of a long illness at 79. (AP)

Church uproar

Sao Francisco — Two Lutheran congregations have been suspended after they ordained a gay man and two lesbians as ministers. (Reuters)

Panda power

Peking — China's rent-a-panda diplomacy is to continue despite appeals to stop sending them to zoos around the world. (Reuters)

Eclipse fever

Helsinki — Astronomers are gathering here for a fleeting glimpse on Sunday of Europe's first total eclipse of the sun since 1981. (Reuters)

Women soldiers

Rome — The Italian military, one of the last all-male forces in Europe, is to allow women to join up. (Reuters)

Airline dispute

Paris — France's main domestic airline, Air Inter, has cancelled 25 per cent of its flights today and tomorrow because of a scheduled pay strike. (AP)

'Thief' sues

Patras — Christian Holland, a West German, has sued himself for stealing his own parcel to protest against the slack Greek post office. (Reuters)

De Beers' priceless pit loses its sparkle

From GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

DIAMONDS may be forever, but the mines which produce them are not. One of the most historic sources of top quality gemstones, which secured a fortune for Cecil Rhodes and made the name De Beers an international symbol of affluence, is running out of "sparklers".

After more than a century of production, the De Beers diamond mine at Kimberley is to cease underground production in October. Treatment of surface reserves will continue until next year, but in effect the mine has reached the end of its economic life.

"It is a fact of life that our products last longer than our mines," a spokesman said. "Happily, we have three others in the area still in full production. This is not the end of Kimberley."

The unceremonious demise of the De Beers mine will be in sharp contrast with its discovery and feverish development. The story began in 1860 when two brothers, Arnoldus and Johannes De Beers, bought a

farm in the Orange Free State for £50. Besieged by diamond miners, they sold it to claimholders 11 years later for the princely sum of £6,300.

At this point Rhodes entered the scene, buying up all the claims, and in 1888 he paid £5.38 million for adjacent mines. These were the rumbustious days when miners converted an ancient pipe of lava into the deepest man-made hole in the world, lit their cigars with banknotes and bathed their women in champagne.

Richard Southey, colonial secretary of the Cape, observed: "This diamond is the rock upon which the future success of South Africa will be built." As far as the original De Beers mine was concerned, he was right.

Ceasing operations only during the recession of 1980 and the second world war, it produced a glittering stream of diamonds. The total haul is estimated at 23 million carats, or 4.6 tons, worth around £1 billion at present prices.

I'm already 100% proofed.



"proofed". "If you do, no bullet will enter your body," he said.

The six-month civil war has been a godsend for the ramshackle Ivory Coast border town of Danane. The trickle of business normally enjoyed by the town, which is located a few miles from the only open, official crossing with Liberia, has turned into a flood after the appearance of journalists, international relief organisations, refugees and rebels.

The normal motley crew who attend international disasters arrived in force, and the dollar signs are ringing up in the eyes of the hoteliers and market stallholders who, despite belonging to the same Gio tribe as the refugees, are not past squeezing every cent they can out of their brothers and sisters from Liberia. Prices have rocketed and the range of goods normally on sale in this shabby town has widened. The latest American videos are on sale, many of them destined to be smuggled through the border to rebel leaders based in the Liberian city of Buchanan.

M Everest must be one of the richest men in Damane now. He is the main rebel contact man in the town and is charging journalists up to \$1,000 (£555) to arrange safe passage to territory held by Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia. The inside of his house in a side-street near the police headquarters, with which he enjoys a cosy relationship, is stuffed with expensive goods, including a state-of-the-art hi-fi system, top-range cameras and an excellent video recorder. A few paces away, a small camp of refugees stare at the comings and goings outside M

Managua tussle over hearts and minds of pupils

From A CORRESPONDENT IN MANAGUA

THE government of President Chamorro and the Sandinista opposition are doing ideological battle over the minds — some would say souls — of Nicaragua's children. The battle goes to the heart of the tension between revolutionary ideals still widely held, and new conservative policies, and the dispute is fierce because the prize is seen as nothing less than the nation's youth.

On one side, new education ministry officials are trying to clear classrooms of nearly 11 years of left-wing revolutionary teaching and replace it with what they widely term "a Christian education". On the other, most of the country's 36,000 teachers are pro-Sandinista and vow to resist changes, and continue "humanist, scientific instruction".

The struggle emerged as Sandinistas celebrated the eleventh anniversary on July 19 of the overthrow of Anastasio Somoza. Although Daniel Ortega, the Sandinista leader, lost the February elections to Señor Chamorro, Sandinistas have been true to their pledge to continue "governing from below" by mobilising public support and a party network to frustrate her designs with strikes and other protests.

"Some schools are in open rebellion," Sofonias Cisneros, the education minister, lamented. "The police won't go in to take down Sandinista flags because they are supporting their side."

But the ministry is moving on other fronts. New primary school reading textbooks are to be delivered on Monday. Tension in some schools is being fed by bitterness between teachers with different views. Señor Martinez, for instance, resents pro-government teachers who want to remove commemorative "patriotic corners" in schools for about 150 teachers killed by contras during the war.

On the other hand, Mario Casco, secretary-general of the pro-government teachers' union, enjoys close ties with the ministry after years of organising clandestinely against the Sandinistas' union and three arrests for "reactionary" activities.

During a break at a recent meeting, Señor Casco and other like-minded teachers laughed with glee when they read that a librarian in the city of Leon made a bonfire of literary works by Sandinista authors. "They call it an inquisition, but those kinds of books should be burned," Señor Casco said. "They are nefarious."

Deeper than flags and books, teachers and officials differ fundamentally about what education should produce. Most controversial is the perceived influence of Roman Catholic Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo. Señor Cisneros is widely believed to have been appointed by President Chamorro at the cardinal's suggestion. Señor Cisneros is not a professional educator, and is best known as the Catholic leader of a parents' association who fought Sandinista policies.

Humberto Belli, the deputy minister, is considered a close associate of the cardinal. During the Reagan administration in the US, Señor Belli worked for the US conservative group, the Institute on Religion and Democracy.

"We don't teach religion, but we do want to impart the Christian values which have constructed Western civilisation," Señor Cisneros said.

Some effects of the Christian or Catholic point of view may materialise quickly. Catholics, for instance, are vehemently opposed to abortion, which is legal in Nicaragua. "We cannot destroy a foetus, a human life," said Estelma Martinez, a pre-school teacher, at a meeting of pro-government teachers.

Some Sandinista teachers worry over Catholic emphasis on marriage as an institution in a country where some 75 per cent of children are born to women who are not properly married. And they say that if sex education is allowed to continue, it will only be as a preparation for marriage.

"These attitudes simply clash with the realities in our country, and leave children feeling marginalised and confused," Guillermo Martinez said. "Our people are highly religious, but we should not be at the service of the Catholic religion."

MONROVIA NOTEBOOK by Jamie Dettmer

Misfortunes of war cast a dark spell over Liberia

The normal motley crew who attend international disasters arrived in force, and the dollar signs are ringing up in the eyes of the hoteliers and market stallholders who, despite belonging to the same Gio tribe as the refugees, are not past squeezing every cent they can out of their brothers and sisters from Liberia. Prices have rocketed and the range of goods normally on sale in this shabby town has widened. The latest American videos are on sale, many of them destined to be smuggled through the border to rebel leaders based in the Liberian city of Buchanan.

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Everest's house. They stir apathetically the contents of a small cooking pot which contains a miserable portion of rice and water.

Shaking hands in Liberia is an exhausting business. It involves rather a lot of digital dexterity. First, you grip each other's hands in the normal fashion and participate in a few shakes. Then you move your hands to clasp thumbs. The final stage returns you to the handshake position. You then press the little fingers together, followed by the third fingers and then the second fingers. The pressing of the second fingers is the real art of the thing because you snap them together to make a clicking sound. The louder the click, the happier people are. Women generally do not go in for the whole time-consuming business. They do a normal but lingering handshake.

The most frequent question asked by any rebel in Liberia today is "You have a gift for me?" Often, a sinister leer accompanies the question. There is also much tinkering

Antidotes to bardolatry

Philip Howard

Here is summer half gone, and I have not managed to get to Shakespeare in the Park yet, let alone Stratford. You cannot endure an English summer properly without Shakespeare. My grandmaman, though seriously Greek, knew this well enough, and used to take us to Stratford as soon as we could walk, in spite of alarm and alarms in the rest of the family that the plays might not be entirely suitable. One of my earliest memories is of not understanding a lot of what was going on in *Cymbeline*, but knowing that it was a brave new world. I know not, sir, whether Bacon wrote the words of Shakespeare, but if he did not it seems to me he missed the opportunity of his life.

The Shakespeare cult is at high tide, what with the rediscovery of the foundations of the theatres, and Sam Wanamaker's magnificent obsession on the South Bank, as well as the Royal Shakespeare Company and amateur productions in college gardens and village halls. One tendency these days is for authenticity, to get back to what it was really like for Elizabethan and Jacobean audiences. This fits in with another popular pursuit: re-experiencing the past by Pevsner around churches and stately homes. If I do manage to get to Stratford, I have no doubt that I shall be trampled by wild herds of snapping American and Japanese trippers doing it in half a day.

Of course we cannot recapture the past, precisely because it has passed. But I hope that at least some of the scanty anecdotes about Shakespeare are true. I hope he played the ghost in *Hamlet*. It is a foul slur to suggest that this implies that he was not much of an actor. The ghost is a demanding part with some good lines. I speak with authority, as a member of the ghost-busters union who fell off the battlements in School Hall with fearful clatter, in theory starting like a guilty thing upon a fearful summons, in fact giggling with surprise at the volume and scratchiness of the recording of the crowing of the cock. I hope that Queen Elizabeth let her handkerchief fall at his feet when Shakespeare was acting a king, to see whether it would distract him, and that he did not falter for a split second, but ad-libbed to one of the stage couriers: "Take up our sister's handkerchief!" This fits with our stereotypes of Elizabeth as mischievous and Shakespeare as cocky, and so is almost certainly untrue. I guess it is stage fare. I am certain that as soon as you write anything about Shakespeare, you are doomed to receive letters from fanatics and nutters arguing with passion that the plays were written not by Shakespeare, but by somebody else with the same name.

The Shakespeare anecdote that rings true to me is of how, when he acted as godfather to one of Ben Jonson's children, he stood after the christening sunk in the sea-

sions of sweet silent thought. Jonson asked what was the matter. Shakespeare replied that he had been pondering what to give the child as a present, but now he had made up his mind: "I'll give him a dozen good lathe spoons and thou shalt translate them." (Latens was a cheap yellow metal, like brass, which was commonly used for household utensils in the 16th and 17th centuries.) I think that Shakespeare rather than an anecdotal bardolatrist might have made that dreadful pun, and might have been coarse enough to boast about his lack of Latin. We can think what we want about Shakespeare, because we know so little. But I think it is important to remember that, among many other things, he was a professional hack working under the task to meet horrendous deadlines, and then having his piece held over at the last minute by idiot producers.

In the quest for real Shakespeare, we are just starting to get back to the Globe acting editions, in texts from the quirky quartos or the First Folio, which are as close as we can get to what he wrote for the company in his own theatre, without the bright alterations made by four centuries of editors. I have seen *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in looseleaf notebook with ring clips, with a prompt script and part scripts for each character, a working edition for serious actors and students. It takes us closer to the original theatrical practices for which Shakespeare wrote than any other modern edition.

And it reminds us what a hurly-burly business it was. The Shakespearean repertory system was as frantic as producing a weekly colour mag. They mounted a different play every afternoon, six days a week, staging as many as 30 different plays a year — many of them continuously updated, improved and improvised — and never repeated even the most popular play more than four or five times in one month. The actors (and the playwrights) had far less time for rehearsal, perfectionism, and prima-donnas than their modern successors. Those original scripts are an antidote to dim bardolatry, which takes a man of the earth and pretends he was the Archangel Gabriel.

You should always take your Shakespeare with a spot of irreverence. He too believed in irreverence. "I don't know if you ever came across a play of Shakespeare's called *Macbeth*? If you did, you may remember this bird Macbeth bumps off another bird named Banquo and gives a big dinner to celebrate, and picture his embarrassment when about the first of the gay throng to turn up is Banquo's ghost, all merry and bright, covered in blood. It gave him a pretty nasty start. Shakespeare does not attempt to conceal." The man who made that grisly pun about Latin spoons would have enjoyed that.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

While I yield to no one in my admiration either for the industries which convert its unflagging research into tubes, phials, tins, jars, boxes and bubble-packs, there is no question but that their insistence on constant breakthroughs makes the prospect of each succeeding holiday exponentially plumper. Between your last trip and your next, they will invariably have come up with something new, and you will not only have to take it with you, you will have to confront the prospect of the suffering which will require you to unscrew it.

Once upon a time, and not so long ago at that, the travelling Briton was quite prepared to enter abroad with nothing more prophylactic than a stout walking-stick and a red-spotted bandanna. It was all there was. Finding himself, say, in a noxious spot where the natives were dropping like flies, not to say because of them, the Briton would use the stick both to fend off anybody who might be falling towards him and to negotiate his passage over those who had already fallen, while holding the bandanna over his face to filter whatever it was that was falling them.

Alternatively, were he to sustain a fracture, it would be the matter of a moment to snap the stick into splints and convert the bandanna into a sling, or, in the event of a gash from tusk or kris, a tourniquet. He would then press on regardless, while things healed. The better sticks were hollow and contained whisky, but this was his only medicinal concession, reserved for that occasional moment when he contracted something from, say, a dodgy Ganges oyster or a suppurating Baluchi he might have inadvertently rubbed up against in the camel-queue, and had to go and lie down until the fever broke.

He did not let this spoil his holiday; even more important, he did not let its possibility spoil his anticipation of his holiday. Since there was nothing he could do about anything, there was no point worrying. That he might catch malaria while pottering the alien bogs did not

cross his mind. Until, that is, word got out about quinine. He then began to fret. He felt he ought to take precautions. He bought a bottle.

I have just got back from the pharmacist. I have 19 packets. I have paracetamol, and anti-histamine, and sodium hypochlorite, and lozomol, and codeine, and flagyl, and pseudoephedrine, and chlorimazole, and dextropropoxyphene, and benzocaine, and achromycin, and diethyltoluamide, and some of them you swallow, and some you spray, and some you inhale, and I am only going to France. The last time I went, I had a mere 17 packets, but today the pharmacist said that there was a lot of something or other about and there were these new things on the market, so I bought them. He also enquired whether I had considered taking a plasma pack, since you couldn't trust foreign blood transfusions these days, and I thought, oh good, something new to worry about, I wonder if he's got any off-thepeg artificial hips. I bet French orthopaedics is a bit off, but I was up to thirty quid already.

All very sad. I am not a hypochondriac, and for the rest of the year I wait for something to go wrong before researching a cure, but here I am, forced to contemplate the thousand natural shocks that flesh is heir to, and, even worse, gloomily wondering if there's a 1001st I may have missed, suppose I got beriberi, suppose a goitre came up, or a wen, suppose I woke up deaf, would it be smart to get something for it now, rather than face some ghastly Gallic quack in a wine-stained goatskin advancing upon me with a fistful of mildewed suppositories?

But at which point to stop? I ask only because of a handy tip from Moyra Brentner which I have just spotted in *The Daily Telegraph*: "If a sea-urchin spine becomes embedded in your skin while bathing, bandage a paw-paw or pineapple over it. The fruit's enzymes open up the skin, making removal easy."

Pity I didn't notice it earlier. The greengrocer's bang next door to the chemist's.

Conor Cruise O'Brien explains why the habits of Germans and others must be watched

Taking stock of national character

Is there such a thing as national character? Nicholas Ridley assumes that there is, and those academics who briefed the prime minister about the Germans seem to have shared the assumption, without reaching the same conclusions. On the other hand, the German deputy foreign minister, Ingrid Adam-Schäffer, interviewed on Channel 4, calmly denied the existence of national character. She spoke with the confidence of one who knows she is expressing a view shared by most of her acquaintances.

I found that a little odd. Whether national character exists or not, there is certainly a widespread assumption that it does. This shows in mildly hostile stereotypes of other nations. Thus if a group of French scholars were to advise President Mitterrand about the English character — not very likely — "hypocrisy" would figure on the list, just as "cynicism" would figure on an English list about the French.

French and English perceptions of each other have been relatively stable during (say) the past three centuries. Perceptions of German national character, on the other hand, have fluctuated bewilderingly.

In the first half of the 19th century, Germans — or most Germans — were thought of as exceptionally peace-loving, which is why Balzac, in describing a German acquaintance, could say that "he was the image of that pure and noble Germany whose peaceful customs have never denied themselves even under seven invasions". Those were French invasions, of course.

It should be noted, however, that Balzac was alluding to a Germany, not to all Germany. Nobody has ever ascribed "peaceable customs" to the Prussians. By the last quarter of the 19th century, Prussia was imposing its stamp — the root-word for "character" — on the rest of Germany. Balzac's assessment would become incomprehensible to his compatriots by the end of the century. And the mood of the Prussian-moulded Second Reich communicated itself, under the quaking surface of the Weimar republic, to the emerging Third Reich. It was only after defeat in the second world war that the "patisible moeurs" admired by Balzac flowered once again in the federal republic.

National characters — clusters of characteristics — endure over long periods. But changing circumstances, particular stresses and opportunities, can bring different components of a cluster into salience. To be domineering is undoubtedly a component in the German character. The same is true of the American, English and French characters, but it is the domineering component in the German character which should preoccupy Europeans at the

present time, because the domineering component is made unconsciously to Germans, for it implies continuity, and understandably — and healthily — post-war Germans are more attracted to the idea of discontinuity. Yet it remains true that there is a German national character, made up of marked specific characteristics. More than other Europeans, Germans are hard-working, inventive, thrifty, painstaking in craftsmanship, punctilious about details and schedules, industrially cooperative and entrepreneurially gifted. These are the "habits" to which Mr Ridley alluded. His aversion appears to be caused not by the habits themselves — all intrinsically admirable — but by their having put Germany ahead.

Of necessity, the domineering component in Germany disappeared from view in 1945. There followed the Bonn era of "patisible moeurs". But a new era is opening in which a unified Germany, with its capital in Berlin, will enjoy economic and financial hegemony in Europe.

Many commentators are suggesting that a Germany united under Bonn's auspices will be the familiar, reassuring federal republic we know. These commentators believe that the old domineering tendency in the German character has permanently disappeared. Where domineering is concerned, they argue, modern Germany is a burnt-out case.

Perhaps. But it would be unwise

to assume that the united Germany is as unwise as those of other nations; indeed, in many ways it is wiser (if we agree to treat the 12 years of the Third Reich as an absolute aberration). But the ways in which it is "wiser" make it exceptionally dangerous when its domineering tendency gets out of hand.

For these reasons, I think Mrs Thatcher is right to hold on to as much political sovereignty as possible, within "an" economically united Europe. And the French will come round to her point of view, once they find that the German "jöchl" is no longer as responsive to its French "rider" as it was in the good old days of Bonn.

Broadcasting House fiddles while the Proms go begging



Richard Morrison argues that the BBC is sacrificing a great artistic asset to support an orchestral empire nobody needs

nature of its public-broadcasting duty. The Proms, along with Radio 3 and the collection of BBC and regional orchestras, spread around London and the regions, represent perhaps the last vestiges of the lofty Reithian tradition. They were established in an era when the BBC had confidence in itself as the nation's cultural pacesetter. They now have to survive in a BBC which is chiefly exercised by the pursuit of audience ratings, television newreaders, gameshows and soaps.

Even if the current BBC management were still committed to leading our cultural life, it would be hampered by past mismanagement of musical resources.

A modern broadcasting organisation does not need half a dozen full-size orchestras. The London-based BBC Symphony Orchestra competes pointlessly through its

wanting the disbandment of five of its 11 orchestras, and served 172 players with dismissal notices. The acrimonious strike that followed was a public-relations disaster for the BBC, and ended in a crushing victory for the Musicians' Union.

Since then, BBC management

has been afraid to make any change, however rational, in its inflexible musical ensembles. Yet reform there must be, before the BBC can legitimately settle the beggar-bowl at business sponsors or licence-payers. Too much of the BBC's current musical output is being sold on the premise that all these salaried orchestras need to be kept busy all the time. The tail is wagging the dog.

It would be tempting to applaud the BBC for creating extra revenue for music, were it not that the level of business sponsorship for the arts is disappointingly sluggish.

There are already far more arts organisations chasing corporate funding than there are business sponsors to go round, the advent of the BBC in the area, offering an advertising slot which no other arts company can match, will severely distort the market. A sponsor who is at present courageously supporting a radical theatre company may easily be tempted by the safer rewards of a symphony concert, especially if guaranteed a credit on television. Extra revenue for BBC music may sound a death-knell for other arts enterprises.

John Diamond, the present BBC controller of music, is an accomplished in-figure and often air-inspired impresario. The Proms have prospered under his control, and Radio 3 has broadened its appeal without sacrificing standards or broadcasting "Top 100 Classical Hits" as any commercial classical rival would probably do. The announcement of the possibility of Proms sponsorship has been managed with characteristic presentation flair. The impression given is that sponsorship is necessary if the Proms are to pay their way.

But the Proms already pay their way, it is the salaries of the house orchestras that constitute the BBC's chief expenditure on music. That is what Proms sponsorship would subsidise. Yet even this figure is small beer in broadcasting and film terms — comparable to one medium-budget feature film. Bragging about that sum, the BBC is prepared to renounce the kudos of being sole benefactor of the world's greatest music festival.

The Proms are a symbol of what makes the BBC different from the independent broadcasters — of the commitment to cultural quality which gives it the right to claim the licence fee. If BBC management is reluctant to continue supporting the Proms unless it can cream off large amounts of business sponsorship in the process, its moral claim on the licence fee is substantially diminished. Moreover, the very quality that would attract any business sponsor to the Proms — an enlightened and cultured image — is precisely what the BBC itself desperately needs at present. Why share the glory?

Stormont's smart set

The imposing and seemingly impregnable security fence erected a few months ago around Stormont Castle has been breached — not by the IRA or Loyalist paramilitaries but by the security forces to allow freedom of passage to the inhabitants of six badger sets. Peter Brooke, the Northern Irish secretary, has let slip the unusual arrangements, designed to make life easier for the animals trapped inside the perimeter fence. Difficulties arose because of the badgers' attachment to favoured routes for their nocturnal forays, a few discreet holes in the fence turning out to be short-lived. He is widely tipped to be given a job in the mini-shuffle the prime minister is expected to announce next week.

But is this act of kindness or animal courting disaster? Even as Brooke spoke, Democratic Unionists were demonstrating outside the castle gates against the visit of Irish ministers, whose arrival by helicopter Brooke was awaiting on the Stormont lawn. Apparently not the holes it is avowed, are too small for even the youngest demonstrator to squeeze through. In any case, one wit pointed out, should either Loyalist or republican interlopers gain access they should easily be distinguished from the legitimate users of the holes. Badgers are black and white in appearance: Gerry Adams, Ian Paisley and their partisans merely see everything that way.

Brooke's insistence that even the demands of security should not impede the badgers' rights of way is perhaps understandable. The badger features prominently in his family crest.

Steve Norris, until last weekend the parliamentary private secretary to Nicholas Ridley, is making the most of his new-found freedom now that he is no longer on the government's payroll vote. His first act from the backbenches this week was to sign a Labour-sponsored motion calling for an inquiry. His liberty may be short-lived. He is widely tipped to be given a job in the mini-shuffle the prime minister is expected to announce next week.

Wolf calls cut

Aiming no last-minute drama, the Wolfson paper and in preparation for his return trip to Cologne had filled the boot of his Mercedes with boxes of soft British toilet rolls," says Davies. Edging his car into the Palace forecourt he was halted for a security check. The car

had driven from Germany for the presentation. "He hated German toilet paper and in preparation for his return trip to Cologne had filled the boot of his Mercedes with boxes of soft British toilet rolls," says Davies. Edging his car into the Palace forecourt he was halted for a security check. The car

later years, when he was quite barney," says Mankowitz, who also worked with Sellers on *Casino Royale*. "He was unbelievably difficult. He refused to appear in any scenes with Orson Welles. It is sad, but I don't think Sellers had any real friends at all."

Was it his disillusionment with the film industry alone which led him to sell his papers? "No," says Mankowitz, who now lives in Cork. "I need the space and the damp Irish climate is slowly destroying the papers anyway."

Roll of honour

The decision to dedicate the first night of the 1990 Proms season this evening to the memory of Sir John Pritchard has delighted the many friends and colleagues of the colourful conductor. Sir John, who died last year, was a noted bon viveur, famous for his sense of fun. Welsh tenor Ryland Davies, who worked with Sir John at Glyndebourne, recalls the conductor's memorable trip to Buckingham Palace in 1983 to receive his knighthood. At the time Pritchard was chief conductor at Cologne Opera, and

plan to do a number of recordings," enthuses Sheila Colvin, the foundation's director.

The quartet will hold masterclasses and provide tuition for young British musicians at the Britten-Pears school, as well as giving concerts spanning Aldeburgh's musical calendar.

Called to book

Most certainly not by royal appointment, the publisher Sidgwick & Jackson has found itself in trouble with a forthcoming biography to mark the 60th birthday of Princess Margaret. Review copies of *Margaret: A Woman in Conflict* by "expert royal commentator" Paul James were accompanied by a press release boasting about it being an authorised biography. The claim was untrue. This was easily rectified by withdrawal of the press release, but worse was to come. Court officials noticed that the book's glossy pink dustjacket featured a large and unauthorised reproduction of the Princess's autograph. "After discussions, it was agreed that the signature be removed from the cover," says a Palace spokesman; so thousands of jackets had to be shredded.

To cap it all, Christopher Warwick, author of a biography of Princess Margaret that appeared in the early Eighties, discovered an offensive reference to his work and forced the book to be recalled and the offending page to be removed. Sidgwick should have known better, for it is now Warwick's publisher, too. What is left of James's book will be out next month, disasters permitting.

boot was opened for inspection and the policeman on duty stared incredulously at six months' supply of toilet rolls. "Expecting to be a bit nervous, are we sir?"

Borodin for Britain

Soviet artists used to have to defect before moving to Britain. No longer. The Borodin String Quartet is about to abandon Moscow for the sleepy Suffolk town of Aldeburgh to become artists in residence for two years. They are moving to Aldeburgh in November, lured by the Aldeburgh Foundation, organiser of the famous festival. "They were particularly attracted by the town's concert hall, where they

continuation of the federal republic. Bonn has habitually been deferential and veered in its behaviour towards its Western allies. It is unlikely that the united Germany will exhibit those characteristics. In the explosion of national pride that must accompany reunification, the old deferential posture will be felt to be unworthy of the newly arisen Fatherland. And from abandoning a deferential position to assuming a domineering one is a short step.

The German "national character" is no worse than those of other nations; indeed, in many ways it is better (if we agree to treat the 12 years of the Third Reich as an absolute aberration). But the ways in which it is "better" make it exceptionally dangerous when its domineering tendency gets out of hand.

For these reasons, I think Mrs Thatcher is right to hold on to as much political sovereignty as possible, within "an" economically united Europe. And the French will come round to her point of view, once they find that the German "jöchl" is no longer as responsive to its French "rider"

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 20 1990

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A GILDED MOUSE

The prime minister's poll tax committee has laboured mightily and brought forth a mouse. The mouse, however, is solid gold, priced at a glittering £3.2 billion next year. This money, partly to pay for yet more relief and exceptions to poll taxes and partly to bribe local councils to keep the basic tax down next year, was never envisaged as part of the original community charge. Nor was it part of last year's costly, and apparently final, set of transitional concessions. This is the third set of such concessions, and increases transitional relief next year over this. Temporary spending is seeming ever more permanent.

The money, which represents an inflationary 12.8 per cent annual rise in central support to local government, is a straightforward sweetener to allay last autumn's Tory backbench anxiety over the tax. There is no conceivable public spending justification for such largess, especially now that the government has backed off its community care reforms. The environment secretary, Chris Patten, has been compelled to accept this year's high local spending as a basis for next year's grant: something that was unlikely were it not for his desperation to reduce poll tax.

Had the tax not been in place, government could reasonably have blamed rising spending on irresponsible councils and left local accountability to do its work. The poll tax was supposed to achieve this, but the cabinet's nerve has failed. It will keep charge capping to relieve left-wing councils of the responsibility (and unpopularity) of making their own budget decisions. Mr Patten yesterday had to parrot his prime minister's fixation with capping; thus offering the left-wingers two political carrots and no stick. Since much of the immediate political anguish has now passed, though without detracting from the wrongness of the tax, the money must be vulnerable to the charge of total waste.

Although these figures are easily lost in a mist of noughts, the amount of the £3.2 billion which can be ascribed to keeping poll taxes

down (as opposed to meeting unavoidable inflation) in the next election year is probably over £2 billion. This is worth almost 2p on income tax. A measure of the panic the poll tax has produced in the ranks of the government is that the Chancellor should so casually concede sums of huge political value. He could have cut income tax, or doubled his spending on roads, or built the Channel tunnel high-speed link. This concession will cost more in a year than all public spending on universities in Britain.

Will the public thank the Tories for such a generous tax cut? As Mr Patten has reiterated, in ubiquitous private wailings about the awfulness of the poll tax, most of the money will merely go to sustaining the spending but reducing the taxes of spendthrift councils. They will claim the credit. His attempt to target some £500 million of the relief to poll tax losers is sensible, but with four million more coming into relief, this will diminish accountability yet further. It will also perpetuate the tax's most serious defect, its high cost of collection.

Such has been the hysteria surrounding this tax that few have stopped to wonder if all this money could not have been better spent, if it had to be spent at all. The cabinet has preempted the bulk of extra pre-election spending in 1991-2, money that might have gone on the electorally appealing health or education services.

The economy is now passing through its first serious recession since the early 1980s. Tax revenues may be boosted by inflation but so too will the pressure to increase spending. The growth buoyancy that might have made room for pre-election generosity is not there. The government is in a recessionary bind at the wrong moment in the electoral cycle. It can only boost real spending next year by going back on its commitment to reduce the public sector. The cabinet has now sacrificed more room for manoeuvre to alleviate its worst self-inflicted wound.

REALISM IN CAMBODIA

The announcement by the US secretary of state, James Baker, of Washington's abrupt decision to abandon America's long obsession with isolating Vietnam and to open talks with Hanoi on a Cambodian settlement offers the first serious hope of depriving the Khmer Rouge of their second reign of terror. The Soviet Union played its part last year by securing a Vietnamese withdrawal from Cambodia. The US has at last realised that its anti-Vietnamese strategy might usher back one of post-war history's most murderous regimes.

Dramatic as is the shift in policy, the precise timing was almost as important as the substance. The decision was made public at the end of two hours of talks in Paris not, as might have been expected, with Washington's Western allies, but with Mr Baker's Soviet opposite number, Eduard Shevardnadze.

This repeats a pattern in regional policing by the superpowers which has already paid dividends in southwest Africa, and could yet be used in Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa and, — who knows? — even in the Middle East. Where the US and the Soviet Union find it convenient to use the United Nations, either the Security Council, or UN mediators, they do. But the essential bargains are bilaterally struck. If the UN is now said to be "working better", that is thanks to this quiet condominium.

This phenomenon is much resented by some Third World countries, accustomed to blaming Cold War rivals for the UN's impotence. They now criticise the superpowers for working together. Their diplomats at the UN have castigated the new "bilateral triumphalism", complaining that the all-member General Assembly has been marginalised.

In Paris, the US and the Soviet Union have committed themselves to isolating the Khmer Rouge by jointly guaranteeing a deal between the noncommunist Cambodian resistance and the Phnom Penh government of Hun Sen. Implicitly, this recognises the need to bypass the two existing routes to a settlement,

explored with little success by a series of peace conferences and meetings between the five permanent members of the Security Council, including one this week.

The first was aimed at persuading the three resistance factions dominated by the Khmer Rouge to join the Phnom Penh government in "national reconciliation". That was always a chimera. The Khmer Rouge, militarily strong and interested only in absolute power, have sabotaged every effort at mediation, and Cambodia's former head of state, Prince Sihanouk, has vacillated, not daring to abandon his alliance with his former persecutors without cast-iron external support. That support is now on offer, making a deal without the Khmer Rouge a possibility.

The second route has centred on an Australian plan for the UN to take over Cambodia pending free elections. That founded on the quest for unanimity between the five permanent members of the Security Council, giving China, which arms and bankrolls the Khmer Rouge, a veto.

Secure in US (and British) hostility to Vietnam and "puppet" Cambodian regime, China has filibustered, insisting that the Khmer Rouge must agree to any settlement. China's bluff has now been called. So has Prince Sihanouk's: if stopping the Khmer Rouge means recognising the Hun Sen regime, even that is no longer totally precluded.

Co-operation between the US and the Soviet Union, whose rivalry has inflicted so much suffering on Indochina, could now short-circuit diplomatic niceties to impose peace. Time is short: the Khmer Rouge are not yet at Phnom Penh's gates, but the Cambodian regime is fast losing ground. If talks with Hanoi convince the US that Hun Sen is preferable to the return of the Khmer Rouge, that will not be the "grave injustice" denounced by Prince Sihanouk from his guesthouse in Pyongyang, but the product of a new, constructive realism in superpower diplomacy.

GOOD FOR BRITAIN

For the last decade ICL, Britain's only major computer manufacturer, has clearly needed to be taken over for its own good. In 1981, ICL signed a technology agreement with Fujitsu under which the Japanese company gave ICL access to its microchip developments. Without these microchips, ICL would not be in the shape it is in today and might not be there at all. From ICL's point of view, the time has come to rationalise the relationship, from Fujitsu's, to establish a good bridgehead in the European Community. What is good for ICL is also good for Britain. Nor need it be bad for Europe...

The present managing director of ICL has been seeking closer links with a major partner for most of the eighties. He has spoken with virtually every major computer manufacturer in the world. He has concluded that the financial, technological and commercial strength of Fujitsu will give ICL a secure place in the world computer market in the year 2000 and beyond.

ICL needs to be bigger than the British market alone can support. The mighty "big blue", IBM, sets computing standards here and across Europe and ICL has to fight to fill any gaps left. Those are not large enough in Britain to support the level of research and development required to stay alive. If Britain is to have a computer industry at all, it needs the backing of a multi-national in the same industry.

Despite the logic of the proposed takeover, there will be voices raised against it. In Europe, the takeover will be seen as yet another Japanese Trojan horse towed within the EC fortress. Rival European manufacturers fear that ICL will become an assembly point for essentially Japanese products. Fujitsu printers, disk drives and other peripheral equipment will, they fear, flood the market. European

computer manufacturers are already finding life tough, forcing them into defensive mergers of their own. They are likely to lobby hard for this takeover to be kicked into touch.

If Fujitsu wished merely to protect one of its customers for microchips, it would have no need to mount an expensive takeover. It has bigger fish to fry. Fujitsu wishes to increase its penetration of European markets, and ICL is a Trojan horse already the right side of the gate. Leaving a proportion of ICL shares in the hands of the present British owner, STC, will cement relationships with that company too, offering potential access to the European telecommunications markets.

Those European objections do not make a case for stopping the takeover. ICL is a major employer both of direct labour and of subcontractors. It is a significant supplier of computer hardware to the public sector and to commerce in this country and, to a lesser extent, abroad. There are many customers, companies and employees needing ICL to survive and prosper. Fujitsu has shown by its patient courting that it is a long-term player which has judged the time right to take over a most important company. STC has judged that the time is right to bring in a suitable partner for itself and parent for ICL, as it has neither the financial nor the technological resources to nourish ICL into the next century on its own.

There is no threat to British national interests here. Giving a route into Europe for the Japanese and Americans is excellent business for Britain, where advantages of language and a tradition in new technology make the leap to Britain an easier one than it might be to continental Europe. Brussels' commercial chauvinism and Euro-protectionism are the unacceptable face of the EC. "Welcome" is a far better message at the gates of Europe than "EC passport holders only".

Water supplies in perspective

From the President of the Institution of Water and Environmental Management

Sir, Groundwater levels mainly depend on the antecedent water pattern and are only partly influenced by the degree of abstraction. The current abstraction rates are no greater than at the same time last year and the loss of water through leakage is generally less this year than in previous years, following intensive efforts and expenditure on waste control and the start of a programme of mains renewal.

For Simon Hughes, environment spokesman of the Liberal Democrats, to describe the loss as "scandalous" (report, July 16) is to display his ignorance of the situation. As the Chairman of the Water Services Association has pointed out, the cost of controlling leakage and reducing it to an acceptable level requires enormous expenditure. This can only be justified by real shortage of water resources in areas such as the Channel Islands, where water is a scarce commodity.

In most areas of the United Kingdom this is not the case, and the expenditure on replacement and repair of mains has to be justified in economic terms. For the same reason it is doubtful if installation of water meters will lead to any significant reduction in use, which in any case would only be temporary and at an enormous cost to the country in initial capital cost and ongoing maintenance.

The water industry is now subject to detailed monitoring by the Office of Water Services and the Drinking Water Inspectorate, in regard to their levels of service in both quantity and quality. Independent assessors have been appointed to examine, assess and report on the work being carried out. As an assessor, I am pleased to report that the water company I am involved with in this respect is providing a good service to its customers. Yours faithfully,

M. A. JONES, Chief Executive, Association of British Insurers, Aldermanbury House, 10-15 Queen Street, EC4. July 18.

'Acts of God' not what they seem

From the Chief Executive of the Association of British Insurers

Sir, Contrary to the impression given in your report (July 18), there are no insurance industry "rules" which prevent accident victims being awarded compensation where the cause is deemed "to be an act of God". Indeed "act of God" does not appear in insurance policies.

Two main types of insurance policies may apply in the case of accidents. First, when there is a specific policy, such as a personal accident insurance, the insurance company will pay out regardless of fault. Secondly, there are liability policies where a payment is made if a legal liability is established, caused, for example, by negligence. It is necessary to establish the legal liability for a payment to be made.

Insurance policies reflect the law of this country, and currently UK law makes someone legally liable for an accident if they are at fault. This applies whether or not either party has any insurance cover. If there were a change in law to introduce a no-fault compensation scheme insurance companies would arrange policies and pay claims on the new basis, but the public would ultimately have to pay for the increased claims through higher premiums.

Yours faithfully,

A. J. PECK (organiser, Liability Special Interest Group, Society of Fellows), The Chartered Insurance Institute, 20 Aldermanbury, EC2. July 18.

From Mr M. J. Peck

Sir, Mark Chapman, you report, has suffered serious injuries as a result of a tree falling in a storm, causing him to swerve and hit a lamp post. As the law stands at present he may:

1. Claim under a personal accident insurance policy taken out either by himself or on his behalf by his employers.

2. Sue the owner of the tree which fell, although he would have to prove negligence or nuisance.

That would normally mean lack of maintenance or some defect in the tree, as opposed to the ravages of the storm.

3. Sue his employers for negligence in sending him out in a van in a serious storm. This is unlikely to succeed unless the storm was of extreme severity.

Presumably no other vehicle was involved and unless Mr Chapman can find someone to sue who is legally liable to him he will obtain no compensation.

So far as the Sandies are concerned, if the driver who

was concerned, is the driver who

retirement, fostered the view that this area of study could be allowed to decline.

Closure of Russian language departments under the Atkinson report (1979) and the seniority of early appointees in politics and economics have left an ageing staff. The paucity of replacement posts is a factor in the diminution of doctoral candidates: a survey of UK universities showed only one half a century of concealment and distortion.

At the moment, when political, social and historical revelations are also accumulating from the USSR and the resurgent democracies of East Europe, we see — as the Woodring report (November 1989) puts it — a "contraction and continuing erosion of resources in the field of Russian, Soviet and East European studies". Its authors have reiterated in your columns (June 29) that provision still fails very short of the national

and international interest.

One was the exigencies of the Cold War; today it is the challenge of abruptly new East-West relationships. Bursts of public funding in 1947 and 1961 had built up a body of academic expertise. Subsequently the apparent stasis of East Europe and the USSR, at a time of public-sector

Credit where due

From Mr Michael Bathurst

Sir, The findings of recent investigations into cot deaths (report, July 13) suggest that overheating through poor body ventilation may be a contributing factor, mentioning over-wrapping, duvets and/or heated rooms as possible causes. The current custom of encasing babies from neck to enclosed feet in garments made of 100 per cent man-made fibre may be an added contributory factor.

When shopping for yarns to make baby clothes one is offered a wide range made of 100 per cent acrylic, nylon, polyester etc. It is very difficult to track down suitable baby yarn which contains a percentage of wool and which is machine washable. In earlier times babies were clothed in materials made mostly of natural fibres which allowed for body ventilation.

Yours faithfully,

GILLIAN BATHURST, Appletree Cottage, Box, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire. July 17.

Credit where due

From Mr Peter Black

Sir, Few things are more exasperating than to be left off a list of achievers that you ought to be on. I refer to Jeremy Kingston's reference ("Step on the gaslight", July 11) to stage directors of the mid-1950s, "when to become a director a man really had to be called".

Mr Kingston went on to name every Peter who was around the theatre at that time except Peter Cotes, who was one of the most active and successful directors. At one stage — I should say at three stages — Peter Cotes had productions running simultaneously in the West End: Wilfrid Lawson in *The Father* (Aris), Joan Miller in *The Man* (Her Majesty's and St Martin's) and Richard Attenborough in *The Mouse Trap* (Ambassadors).

Yours faithfully,

P. J. SOLAN, 23A High Street, South Norwood, SE25. July 14.

Germany's success

From Lord Croham

Sir, Surely the sensible response to Germany's economic success is not to nail it, but to analyse its causes and see if there are any lessons to be learnt.

The Anglo-German Foundation for the Study of Industrial Society, set up in 1973 at the initiative of a German President, Gustav Heinemann, has been commissioning comparative Anglo-German studies in the economic and social area for the past 17 years, bringing British and German researchers together to look at areas such as vocational training, unemployment, small firms, innovation, regional policy, housing, planning and environmental protection. The foundation is also financially

and organisationally involved in high-level Anglo-German conferences such as Königswinter and the annual conference of the British-German Parliamentary Group.

Not all the lessons run one way.

For example, it was German experts who came away with British lessons from recent foundation seminars on smoking at work, information services for industry and local economic development initiatives. In many areas, such as training, industrial relations and pollution control, the Germans do seem to be ahead. But the clearest message from these comparisons is that both

countries are facing major challenges in Europe, east and west, and would do well to work together. It may be of interest that in an opinion poll commissioned by the foundation last year 35 per cent of the British respondents said the country they felt closest to was Germany, while only 20 per cent of the Germans felt closest to Britain. But in the foundation's experience, Britons and Germans invariably work together in a warm and cordial atmosphere. I trust that the events of the past few days will prove nothing more than a small temporary blip.

Yours faithfully,

CROHAM (Chairman, Anglo-

German Foundation for the Study of Industrial Society).

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Baptismal check on church entry

From Mr Frank Field, MP for Birkenhead (Labour)

Sir, Clifford Longley is right to sound more than a note of warning to the Anglican Church ("Back-to-front reasoning", July 14). The zealous for strict baptism seek to control entry into the Church of England.

The debate over baptism is an example of how one group faces the decline of religious adherence in this country. Rather than face up to the difficult duty of continuing the Anglican Church's mission to the English nation, the strict baptistimists direct attention away from the nation and into the Church. To their credit some of this group realise that is what they are doing and attempt to justify it by saying that, only by building up a hard core of committed Christians, can the mission to the English nation begin once more.

Yet the historic role of the Anglican Church has to be pursued now rather than in the future. One link the clergy do have with the outside world is at times of baptism and burial. Many clergy say that these are the two last regular contacts with their parishioners and provide them with what is their only chance for evangelism. By tapping into what Clifford Longley refers to as folk religion they accept that the mysterious way God works isn't always confined by the crudities of human language.

When one of my constituents asked his local vicar to baptise his baby son the vicar refused on the grounds that the father didn't believe. My constituent's response was, why should his inability to believe — he wished that it was otherwise — penalise his son?

This response by an unemployed father showed that he understands more about the incorporating nature of God's love and the meaning of the Church than those who had been given the responsibility for the cure of souls on that parish.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 19: His Excellency Monsieur Sandi Yacoub was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Niger to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following member of the Embassy: Monsieur Mahamane Kondo (Second Secretary, Protocol).

Monsieur Sandi was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir Patrick Wright (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr Michael Atkinson (Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Buckingham) and Mrs Atkinson were received by The Queen.

The Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia and Mrs Lam were received by The Queen.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave an Afternoon Party in the Garden of Buckingham Palace.

The Princess of Wales, The Princess Royal, and Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy, and the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy were present.

Her Majesty's Corps of Gentlemen at Arms and The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard were on duty.

The Bands of the Coldstream Guards and the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell played selections of music during the afternoon.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended a Gals Performance at the London Palladium to mark the 90th Birthday of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

The Duchess of Grafton and the Right Hon Sir William Heseltine were in attendance.

By command of The Queen, the Viscount Long (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London this afternoon upon the departure of the Governor-General of Belize and back farewells to Her Excellency on behalf of Her Majesty.

The morning the Duchess of York opened the new Police Southern Support and Training Headquarters at Netley.

This afternoon Her Royal Highness opened The Rapids Leisure Centre at Romsey.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Vice-Lord Lieutenant for Hampshire (General Sir David Fraser, GCB, OBE, DL).

Mr John Floyd and Captain Alexander Baillie-Hamilton were in attendance.

This morning The Princess Royal, Patron, SENSE, the National Des-Blind and Rebels Association, visited SENSE Headquarters, 311 Gray's Inn Road, London.

Afterwards Her Royal Highness, President, Council for National Academic Awards, opened the Council's newly refurbished offices, 344-354 Gray's Inn Road, London.

In the evening Her Royal Highness, Patron, took the

suite at the Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London.

Mrs Caroline Wallace was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE

July 19: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this morning at Clarence House received Addresses of Congratulation on her 90th Birthday from the House of Lords and the House of Commons, to which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to make reply.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present this evening at a Gala Performance at the London Palladium.

The Lady Grimthorpe, the Earl of Dalhousie and Sir Martin Gilfillan were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

July 19: The Prince of Wales, Patron, Marylebone Health Centre, received Dr Patrick Picton.

His Royal Highness, President of the International Council of United World Colleges, received Sir Albert Stoman (Chairman of the International Board).

The Prince of Wales, President, Prince's Trust, held a reception.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, Help the Aged, visited the Golden Years Club, Altenburg Gardens, Battersea SW11.

Subsequently Her Royal Highness, Patron, Turning Point visited the charity's Alcohol Advisory Service at 1-3 Featherstone Terrace, Southall, Middlesex.

Lieutenant-Commander Patrick Jephcott, RN, was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

July 19: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was present this evening at a Gala Performance at the London Palladium.

The Hon Mrs Wills was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

July 19: The Duke of Gloucester, today visited the East of England Agricultural Show, Peterborough, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (Mr Michael Bevan).

This afternoon His Royal Highness, Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, visited the Wearside Training Enterprise Council's Ryhope School, Sunderland and opened the Industry Centre at Sunderland Polytechnic.

Commander Roger Walker, RN, was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, Chancellor, today presided at Congregations for the Conference of Degrees at the University of Leeds.

Mr Peter Wilmot-Sitwell was in attendance.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.M. Ambler and Miss S.M. Gibbons

The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs Roy Ambler, of Opotiki, Northland, New Zealand, and Susanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Gibbons, of Newbury, Berkshire.

Mr S.M. Barn and Miss J.M. Grotian

The engagement is announced between Mark, younger son of Mr and Mrs G. Raymond Burn, of Cottenham, York, and Jane, elder daughter of Commander and Mrs P.B. Grotian, of Crayke, North Yorkshire.

Mr J.A. Hall and Miss L.E. Tytherleigh

The engagement is announced between John, son of Colonel and Mrs T.A. Hall, of Chiseldon, Oxford, and Anne, daughter of Mr C. Tytherleigh, of London, SW1, and Mrs H.S. Tytherleigh, of Southroppe, Norfolk.

Mr J.J. Huber and Miss L.E. Tillman

The engagement is announced between Justin Jean, son of Mr and Mrs Jean Huber, of New Malden, Surrey, and Letitia Elizabeth, daughter of the late Mrs E.A. Tillman and of Dr Peter Tillman and stepdaughter of Mrs S. Tillman, of Jersey, Channel Islands.

Mr A.C. Pumphrey and Miss J.E. Blakett

The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Pumphrey, of Bolam West Houses, Middleton, Morpeth, Northumberland, and Juliet, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Pat Blakett, of Whalton, Morpeth, Northumberland.

Mr P.A. Rodgers and Miss C.F.H. Griggs

The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs C. Rodgers, of Knightswood, Glasgow, and Clemmie, daughter of Mr and Mrs H. Griggs, of Dulwich, London.

Sub-Lieutenant G.W. Webb, RN and Mrs E.L. Le Gassick

The engagement is announced between Giles, younger son of Mr and Mrs M.H.P. Webb, of Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and Emma-Louise, daughter of Mrs R. Le Gassick, of Crowborough, Sussex.

Birthdays today

The Marquess of Aberdeen and Temair, 70; Sir Christopher Benson, chairman, MPE, 57;

Professor Sir John Dacie, haematologist, 78; M. J. Acland, Delors, president, Commission of the European Community, 65; Sir Antony Driver, former chairman, South West Thames Regional Health Authority, 70; General Sir Jack Harman, 70; Sir Edmund Hillary, first man to reach the summit of Mount Everest, 71; Dr R.E. Holton, horticulturist, 95; Lord McGowan, 52; Mr Charlie Magri, boxer, 34; Mr Peter Palumbo, chairman, Arts Council of Great Britain, 55; Sir Jeffrey Petersen, diplomat, 70; Mr Walter Pflueger, veterinarian, 67; Miss Diana Rigg, actress, 52; Dame Veronika Wedgwood, OM, historian, 80.

Dinner

Commonwealth Jewish Council The Hon Greville Jaeger, QC, MP, president and honorary officers of the Commonwealth Jewish Council gave a dinner last night at the Commonwealth Institute in honour of Sir Shridhar Ramphal and Sir Zelman Cowen, QC. The Chief Rabbi and the High Commissioners for The Bahamas, the Eastern Caribbean States and the Dominican Republic were among others present.

Polytechnic news

City of London

Eric Collier to be head of Accounting and Finance.

Professor George Hadjimatheo to be head of the Economics department.

Reception

Chartered Association of Certified Accountants

The Right Hon Sir William Clark, FCA, MP, was host at a reception held last night on the Terrace of the House of Commons by the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants.

Sir Tom Hopkinson

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir Tom Hopkinson, CBE, who died on June 20, will be held at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, on Tuesday, November 6, at midday.

OBITUARIES

ANDRÉ CHASTEL

André Chastel, the French art historian, died on July 18 of cancer, aged 77. He was born on November 15, 1912.

ANDRÉ Chastel brought many French virtues to his chosen area of study, Italian art in the age of humanism, both in his teaching at the Sorbonne and in the many books, ranging in depth from scholarly to popularising, for which he provided the text. It is a measure of his international recognition that practically all of them were translated into Italian — except for his most scholarly, on Marsilio Ficino, which is the key to much of his thought.

He was, in keeping with French academic style, heavily fact-minded. These qualities provided, in 1956, two volumes on Italian art to the Larousse series, *Arts, Styles et Techniques*, essential compilations for examination-passing. They were translated into English in 1963.

Chastel was also sensitive and intelligent, as revealed in his book on Botticelli published in 1958. He was sophisticated, supplying a cultural guide to Paris in 1971 for the series published in English by Thames & Hudson. He could also write simply: his most prolific years coincided with the rise of the international art-book with lavish illustrations and authoritative text, pioneered in Britain by Thames & Hudson. Chastel's thought and his intellectual curiosity, as seen in his *The Studios and Styles of the Renaissance: Italy 1460-1500*, where he followed his

personal investigations to reveal ideas and impulses behind the art of the time.

But the profundity of Chastel's thought and his most individual contribution to art scholarship are keyed to the re-awakened scholarly in-



terest from the 1930s in the figure of Marsilio Ficino, Cosimo de' Medici's appointed leader of the Florentine Academy. Chastel followed Marcelli's biography of Ficino, and the researches of scholars such as Kristeller,

with a study of the influences of Ficino's philosophy on art.

Marcel Ficin et l'art of 1954.

The Council of Europe's 1955 exhibition on the theme of the age of humanism in Europe from 1480 to 1520 drew from Chastel a text, published in English by Thames & Hudson in 1964, which gives a clue as to Chastel's personal belief in the significance of these years which followed on the publication of Ficino's treatises and letters; and Chastel's *Myth of the Renaissance (1420-1500)*, published by Skira in 1969 was a fine publication, combining high quality in its illustrations with a text wide-ranging and profound, which sought a unity and harmony in the whole thought of the Renaissance. Chastel's most recent writing was on the sack of Rome by the troops of Charles V in 1527, and the fate of its art treasures.

André Chastel was a member of several important French government cultural committees: in the late 1970s and early 1980s he was involved in compiling an inventory of historic monuments and art treasures in France; since 1983 he had been vice-president of a council which advised administrators of national museums on acquisitions. Subsequent to a report by him, in 1984, that British and American art historical studies had outstripped the French, came the implementation in 1989 of a national art library bringing together material from across France. Chastel also wrote numerous articles on a wide range of cultural issues for *Le Monde*.

When in perspective, it could well be that Parker's most important work stemmed from his interest in the survival of cells, tissues and whole animals at low temperatures. He played a leading part in developing the technique of storing and transporting at very low temperatures spermatogenesis for artificial insemination and tissues for freezing. He and his associates showed that small rodents could be cooled to deep body temperatures of a range of 0 to 10°C, temperatures 120°C below that at which the heart beat and respiratory movements are arrested, and that after an interval of as much as 90 minutes the heart and breathing could be restored and the animal revived without showing apparent physiological or psychological impairment.

The younger son of E. T. Parker, he was educated at Wilton School and Christ's College, Cambridge, graduating in 1921. He was already interested in problems of reproduction, having come under the influence of F. H. A. Marshall at Christ's, and he published an essay on sex heredity in *Science Progress*. Professor A. V. Hill, at that time in the Chair of Physiology at Manchester, was impressed and gave him the opportunity to work on the mammalian sex-steroid in his laboratory. There followed, in quick succession, a series of papers on various aspects of the sex-steroid, culminating in a critical review, published in 1926, which did much to clarify the confused literature of the subject and to set it on sound foundations.

When Hill moved to the chair of physiology at University College, London, Parker went with him, first as Sharpey scholar, then as Bell memorial research fellow and subsequently as Foulerton student of the Royal Society. His contemporaries at University College included an unusual number who were destined to achieve distinction and in the stimulating society Parker

SIR ALAN PARKES

Sir Alan Sterling Parkes, CBE, FRS, who was Professor of the Physiology of Reproduction at Cambridge University from 1961 to 1967, died aged 89 on July 17. He was born on September 10, 1900.

ALTHOUGH not in the public eye over the past 20 years, Alan Parkes was to his day an honest and fearless upholder of science. In the 1960s he adopted clear-cut positions on such sensitive issues which exercised the general public as experimentation with animals, women's right to abortion, costly transplant surgery versus simpler surgery and the quality of human populations.

Such views found reflection in lectures collected as *Sex, Science and Society* (1966). Faced by the world population explosion of the 1960s, which has only worsened since then, Parkes questioned whether such a thing as a right to unlimited reproduction could exist and urged the spread of at least the idea of voluntary selection. He accused some doctors of seeking "refuge behind their conscience" and so denying women their legal right to abort.

In perspective, it could well be that Parkes's most important work stemmed from his interest in the survival of cells, tissues and whole animals at low temperatures. He played a leading part in developing the technique of storing and transporting at very low temperatures spermatogenesis for artificial insemination and tissues for freezing. He and his associates showed that small rodents could be cooled to deep body temperatures of a range of 0 to 10°C, temperatures 120°C below that at which the heart beat and respiratory movements are arrested, and that after an interval of as much as 90 minutes the heart and breathing could be restored and the animal revived without showing apparent physiological or psychological impairment.

During this period he made notable contributions to many aspects of reproductive physiology, showing right in the literature and in the various hormones concerned. He described the earliest cycles of a number of wild and laboratory mammals, and helped elucidate the endocrine control of the secondary sexual characters of birds.

When in the late 1930s Marshall was called upon to prepare a third edition of his *Physiology of Reproduction*, soon found the task beyond his capacity and he turned to Parkes to undertake the task of editing the new work. Many of the contributions had been completed and the manuscript was far advanced in 1939 when war broke out. With articles revised and further contributions obtained, one volume appeared in 1952 and further ones in 1956 and 1960.

Parkes remained at the medical institute until 1961, when he became the first holder of the Mary Marshall and Arthur Walton chair of the physiology of reproduction at Cambridge, which he relinquished on reaching retirement age. He also held a professorial fellowship at Cirencester from 1961 to 1963, and became an honorary fellow in 1970.

Parkes played a prominent part in the foundation of both the Society for Endocrinology and the Society for the Study of Fertility. He served as president or chairman of the sections of endocrinology and of comparative medicine of the Royal Society of Medicine, and of section "D" of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1933 he had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

He was appointed CBE in 1956 and knighted in 1968. He is survived by his wife, one son and two daughters.

KARL MENNINGER

Karl Menninger, American psychiatrist, who, with his father, founded the clinic in Kansas that bears the family name, died aged 96, in Topeka, Kansas, on July 18. He was born on July 22, 1893.

GENERALLY recognised as the father of American psychiatry, Karl Menninger founded a school which, as a result of his own deep admiration for Freud, aimed at implanting strongly psychoanalytic habits of mind in its trainees. But he was a man whose activities and influence went far beyond the merely clinical application of his specialty. His work was often controversial and challenged many popular assumptions. He was an early critic of the principles of prison sentencing, and many of his other concerns, such as child abuse and the search for world peace, spilled over into the social sphere.

Menninger was born into an old-established Topeka family, the eldest of three sons of a medical practitioner. He decided to follow his father and graduated from Harvard Medical School, returning to Kansas City to do the American equivalent of house appointments before joining his father in private practice.

He gradually became what was then known as a "nerve specialist". From the outset Menninger's aim was to prove that those who were then regarded as the "insane" could be treated. To this end he and his father founded the Menninger Clinic in a two-storey frame building in Topeka in 1925. They were soon joined

by Karl's brother William. In 1941 the Menningers set up the Menninger Foundation whose influence on American psychiatry soon became marked.

One of Menninger's early preoccupations was with the plights of people in prison, and it was to remain so. He had a profound sympathy for prison inmates, and his

After the furore over the leaked guide to the German character, Gabriel Ronay looks at a 18th-century assessment of our neighbours, and finds some curious parallels



A handy guide for the 18th-century travel trade: from the left, the Spaniard, Frenchman, Italian, "good" German, Englishman, Swabian, (or "bad" German), Pole, Hungarian, Muscovite and Greek or Turk

The good, the bad and the Swabian

Margaret Thatcher was wasting taxpayer's money when, on the advice of her foreign affairs specialist, she summoned a secret seminar to divine the national thoughts and virtues of the Germans. The job has already been done with telling thoroughness, and the report has been available for more than 250 years.

Word for word, it is better value than the leaked memorandum, and more comprehensive. The stereotypical traits of Europe's 10 leading nations were assessed and, what is more, it carefully distinguished between good Germans — natives of north Germany — and bad Germans, from the south, tempered together under the dismissive term of Swabians.

The *Chart of Nations* was compiled as a thumbnail guide for innkeepers, coachmen and bargee proprietors along the north-south route to Italy across the heart of the Habsburg empire early in the 18th century.

In order to assist the personnel of the 18th-century travel trade in

identification of foreigners passing through their land, the anonymous compiler of the chart provided a nicely illustrated "Brief Description of the Peoples of Europe and their Characteristics" based, no doubt, on practical experience. The innkeepers put up copies in their bars in the heyday of the European Grand Tour as a practical, instant guide. A copy of the chart, which was conceived in Styria, in south-east Austria, has been rescued from oblivion by the Budapest historical journal *Historia*.

The English (and, presumably, the Scots and Welsh, who are not listed separately) were the innkeepers' and postillions' favourite customers. In virtually all the chart's 17 key questions, ranging over morals, intellectual capabilities, attire, shortcomings, ailments and religious observance, the English came first, beating the Spanish, Italians, French, Hungarians, Poles, Germans, Swabians, Muscovites (Russians), and the all-purpose Turk or Greek hands down. But the good Germans were not far behind, being adjudged as

being of good character, pious, witty and open-hearted, although a trifle stingy and rather too fond of drinking.

The bad Swabians, on the other hand, were apparently very bad.

They were deemed dim-witted, cruel, superstitious, zealous, whose favourite pastime was "suzzling wine". Their only redeeming feature was fearlessness in battle, if that is something to command a stranger asking for a bed in your inn.

In the field of honesty and morals — the key assessment issues in the chart — the English scored top marks with the accolade of "highly developed moral sense" and "of kindly disposition". The French were judged of "easy virtue".

Virtues were highly valued, the English being the undisputed heroes of the seas, and the good Germans "unparalleled" in their marital qualities. But the French apparently excelled only in "low cunning" in battle. The Spaniards, noble to a man, were magnani-

mous in battle, the Italians a trifle "over-cautious", while the Russians were "without military value".

Heroism in battle and military

lions, represented mainly by their drovers taking long-horn cattle to Italy, were clearly not the flavour of the century, having thrice risen in rebellion against their Habsburg overlords.

They were characterised as rebellious blood-thirsty war lovers.

Appearance and national attire helped to classify the traveller in 18th-century Europe. The English were seen as favouring French-style clothes, while the French themselves were "forever changing their garb". The bad Germans were "imitating" everyone. The Russians, not surprisingly perhaps, wore furs with everything, a habit that must have raised a few eyebrows in the temperate climate of central Europe.

The heart of character assessment was the identification of the national shortcomings of Europe's leading nations. The main fault of the English was their restlessness and their love of pomp and circumstance, the bad Germans were too superstitious, the French deceitful, the Italians too much

given to pleasure-seeking and the Russians traitorous, only surpassed in this by Greeks and Turks.

In a catch-all character summary the English were awarded the much coveted epithet of "nice", the Swabians "cruel", the French loquacious, the Italians jealous and the Hungarians almost as cruel as the Russians.

Englishmen, perhaps because of their long, thin faces and graceful movements, resembled horses according to the chart, the crafty French were likened to foxes, the bad Germans to cows, the good Germans to lions, the Hungarians to blood-thirsty wolves, the Spaniards to sagacious elephants, and the Russians to asses.

In all, the chart of nations must have been quite a handy guide in an age which was, as Lawrence Sterne put it, "so full of light that there is scarce a country or corner of Europe whose beams are not crossed and interchanged with others".

In this, it was not so different from ours.



European checklist: national traits are characterised under each figure

Happy birthday, Rule Britannia

After 250 years of stirring the blood of Britons everywhere, the country's most patriotic song is to get a party to itself

FOR a country estate whose goings-on once scandalised the nation and ignominiously immortalised the name of its war minister, John Profumo, the sight of a Commander of the British Empire disporting himself around its grounds wrapped in a Union Jack and waving a conductor's baton was, perhaps, small beer.

Nevertheless, two elderly guests who were treating themselves to a few days at Cliveden, the Buckinghamshire mansion which was once the home of the Astor family and is now one of Britain's grandest hotels, were sufficiently bemused by the spectacle to seek enlightenment from a passing footman. "It's Mr Antony Hopkins, sir," said that retainer respectfully and, doubtless feeling that some

further explanation was required, added: "I understand he's having his photograph taken."

Mr Hopkins, the 69-year-old musician, author and broadcaster, had good reason for his display of patriotic fervour. For it was on the *parterre*, or formal gardens, of Cliveden on the night of August 1, 1740, that a tune by Dr Thomas Arne, "Rule, Britannia!", was heard in public for the first time. And, in the same spot and on the right date, the Royal Philharmonic Pops Orchestra, soloist Sarah Walker, will perform it at a concert to celebrate its 250th

birthday. Mr Hopkins, who will conduct the orchestra, was merely taking an advance look at the location and inhaling the appropriate atmosphere.

"I believe that this is the very first time anyone has ever commemorated the anniversary of a single song," he said. "But the honour is fully deserved — it's a super song and was certainly good enough for Beethoven to write variations on it. From the moment it was first played, as part of a masque called *Alfred*, it went straight to the hearts of the British populace."

It will scarcely be the popu-

lace who rejoice this time around — the tickets are £260 each — but if the occasion succeeds in resurrecting the name of the composer from comparative obscurity, it will have achieved an additional purpose. For it was also Dr Arne's harmony which has become today's standard form of the national anthem — and "Rule, Britannia!" and "God Save the Queen" (or King, as it then was) is not a bad double act for a man who was known as "the English nightingale".

Nor was it only Beethoven who gave "Rule, Britannia!" the seal of approval. Handel

borrowed from it for his "Occasional Oratorio", and Wagner said that its first eight bars embodied the character of the British people. And if next month's location is far removed from the football terraces and the last night of the Proms, at which it has had its most enduring and enthusiastic support, it is at least very much in keeping with the grandeur of its debut.

Anxious to gain favour with the British aristocracy, Frederick, Prince of Wales, the eldest son of George II and Cliveden's owner, decided to commission an evening of British magnificence, ostensibly to honour his daughter's third birthday. Two Scottish poets came up with the words for the resultant masque and Dr Arne produced the music.

There was reportedly scarcely a dry eye in the place as "Rule, Britannia!" rang out.

The cost of the birthday

celebrations, including a fireworks display and dancing in the great hall at Cliveden, is £45,000 with any profit going

to the Prince's Trust. "The house was full with resident guests within 48 hours of the first announcement," says John Sinclair, Cliveden's general manager.

Cliveden's connection with the birth of Britain's most



Suitably dressed to celebrate a patriotic classic: Antony Hopkins at Cliveden

patriotic song was discovered by Nicy Roberts, the house's marketing manager and a bachelor of music. "The more I read, the more I realised that this day couldn't be allowed to pass by," she says.

WILLIAM GReaves

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SARAH PICKHALL

Paying up for children

In November 1987, in a burst of bicentennial fervour, Bob Hawke, the Australian prime minister, declared that by the end of 1990 no Australian child would be living in poverty. He regretted the extravagance at once. What he had meant to say was: "As a result of the social infrastructure currently being put into place, no Australian child will need to live in poverty by the end of 1990."

He had wandered from the script, misled perhaps by his enthusiasm for the fledgeling child support scheme, a winning adjustment to the social infrastructure which had the rare charm of appealing to the soft left on one hand, and the hard right on the other.

Not only would it improve the lot of children in single-parent families by chasing and enforcing maintenance payments from non-custodial parents (usually fathers), it would cut the sole parent pension (allowance) dramatically by moving the onus of support from the state to the individual. Pensions would still be paid but at a reduced rate, depending on the size of the maintenance order.

The scheme, whose motto is Putting Children First, has been in force for two years. It was introduced with all-party support in two stages. In June 1986 and October 1989. Its success is currently being assessed; reviews range from the ecstasy of the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), which believes it to be "an enormous triumph", through the caution of the welfare groups ("it works very well for some"), to the fury of outraged fathers.

There is no doubt that it has thrown up problems, but what cannot be denied is that most custodial parents (usually mothers) are better off than they were. Most non-custodial parents are complying with its orders, and the Department of Social Security (DSS) is substantially richer.

According to figures provided

Australia is two years ahead of Britain in forcing absentee fathers to pay maintenance. David Chuter (right) tells Barbara Toner how the policy works



by ATO, before the scheme began only 30 per cent of those who should have been paying maintenance actually were, and of these only 45 per cent were paying it regularly. Since the scheme, 57 per cent of those registered have paid up immediately, and a further 7 per cent coughed up within two months.

David Chuter, director of the child support agency in New South Wales, says: "We take action on the remaining 36 per cent — a letter, a phone call or a summons — and we end up with a payment rate of 71 per cent. This means that 29 per cent of custodial parents are not getting a brass razzoo, but a large number are much better off."

The agency uses all the resources of the ATO, plus other sources. "There are motor transport records, health insurance records, the state's lotteries offices, Telecom and loads of others," Mr Chuter says. "We write off just 2 per cent as untraceable."

Once traced, the parent agrees a method of payment. Just under a third accept automatic withdrawal, where the maintenance payments are deducted from their pay packets by their employers. The rest agree to send monthly payments to the ATO — or refuse to, as the case may be.

"Some don't want to pay,

especially fathers of Mediterranean or south-east European descent. They can get very difficult," Mr Chuter says.

Enforcement techniques include penalties of Aus\$20 (28.75) per month, withholding of tax rebates, civil proceedings to recover goods to the value of the debt, or an examination summons when a parent must show the court why he is unable to pay.

In the financial year 1989-90 the DSS saved Aus\$34.2 million and in 1990-91, it is expected to make a saving of Aus\$120 million. Not everyone is thrilled. Reservations are mainly to do with the way the scheme is administered. Three separate government departments are involved: the ATO, which is responsible for registration, collection and enforcement, the DSS, which hands over the money to the custodial parent, and the attorney general's office, which is responsible for the family courts to which appeals can be made by either parent.

Currently, their clients fall into stage one and stage two categories. Stage two applies to anyone who separated, or gave birth subsequently to separation, after October 1, 1989. Stage one applies to everyone else. Stage two clients register with the child support agency, which works out how much maintenance to seek accord-

ing to a formula. Stage one people have their maintenance fixed by a court order or court registration order.

According to Marion Brown, a solicitor with the Women's Legal Resource Centre, one of the main objections to the scheme is that parents wanting to claim sole parent allowances cannot under stage two unless they also apply for maintenance. "There are women who don't want to open old relationships with men who have been bastards. You can't tell me that a man who hasn't seen his wife and kids for years won't think, when he's hit with a maintenance order, if I'm going to pay, I want to see the kids. Then he takes her to court for access and they're involved all over again."

Mr Chuter admits they have had some problems with fathers confusing the issues of access and custody with maintenance. "They don't understand that access is the child's right, not theirs. They've had the children, so it's their duty to maintain them, whether they see them or not. We're seeking funding for additional counselling in the family courts," he says.

There are other hiccups, like the length of time it takes to process a registration. Once a non-custodial parent has registered, four months pass before the first payment. The ATO admits it is a problem but claims it has no solutions.

"There will always be individuals for whom the system won't work, who'll say it doesn't work, full stop. But it does," Mr Chuter says. But he acknowledges how sensitive an area it is. There have been distressing scenes in the Sydney child support agency, located in a suburban tax office.

"We had a man come in and strip off his shirt," Mr Chuter says. "He was yelling, 'Take the shirt off my back, you've got everything else'. Then he took off his shoes and socks. When he got to his trousers he was restrained by a security guard."



Happy family: but when couples separate, Australia has found ways of making men pay the price

The best policy is no policy at all



BARBARA TONER

THE state of television presenter Jeremy Paxman's coiffure is beside the point, I know. Still, the fact is I knew we were in for a really good *Newsworld* when I switched on the television set last Wednesday and saw those little tenuities that tumble, ever so slightly, over his forehead, all a quiver. Mr Paxman was really engaged.

Under discussion was Mrs Thatcher's policy on the family, not a naturally promising topic, one would have thought. There to help whizz things along were Lord Joseph, the former education secretary, Edwina Currie and Harriet Harman. In keeping with the political tenor this week, I noted that Mrs Currie, who, during question time, had praised the prime minister for "looking jolly good", was looking a jolly lot better than I have ever seen her, with a manner that verged, although did not park, on calm.

Before the discussion proper, there was a bit of data on the changing marital status of cabinet ministers. Forty years ago there was barely a divorce to be seen in the cabinet. But now we have a Conservative prime minister who is married to a divorced man. We have had a cabinet whose ministers have their share of second wives and even the odd illegitimate child. That seemed to me an essential point to grasp. Society is not static, and it will develop as it pleases in a way that seems most comfortable and natural to human beings at a given state of cultural and technological development.

"It's taken the government 16 years to develop a policy on the family, hasn't it?" was Mr Paxman's opening question to Lord Joseph. This was followed up by, "Are you saying women shouldn't go out to work?" and "Well, what are they supposed to do then?", when Lord Joseph voiced some mild unhappiness with the notion of taxpayer-funded creches.

The key point Lord Joseph made was a philosophical one of considerable importance: namely, that good parenting was not necessarily dependent on traditional structures. Single men or women could be good parents if they were of good character. Nor was he opposed to mothers going out to work if that was what they wanted to do. Government could usefully provide some structures in which good parenting might take place (such as eliminating unfair tax treatment of stay-at-home mothers), but could do little about the most important element in preserving the family, namely, the matter of creating reliable human beings.

This is surely the key point. Some mothers (single or married) will choose to take a cut in living standards in order to stay at home and raise their children. This is not a moral decision but simply a matter

of judgment. One should not try to change this for the sake of the economy or the diet of the family: a middle-class lifestyle is a perfectly decent human ambition, but it is not at this point a human right to be enforced or subsidised by the state. There are, of course, some single mothers who are either too young or too ill-equipped to do much more than throw themselves into the state's safety net. We must continue to try to do everything possible to see that there is sufficient food, shelter and clothing for them.

But fathers who desert their offspring, or women who have illegitimate children and are unable to shoulder the respons-

Human society has become so technologically advanced, but is helpless in the management of the most basic aspects of existence

sibility of looking after them will not be helped one iota by the state creating nurseries. Anyone who thinks that inadequate human beings can be given job skills and initiative in this way are stark raving mad.

To a large extent, the problem of fatherless families and helpless mothers is the result of a totally demoralised society and has to do with the social ambience we have created. It is rather like living with a demoralised army: an army with high morale is one in which you have a bunch of soldiers for whom it would take more courage to run away from the enemy than to face it. So long as our social ambience goes on telling people that it is up to the government to sort their lives out, the courage they need to face the consequences of their actions will wither away.

The prime minister also seems entranced with the idea of creating a new bureau to track down runaway fathers

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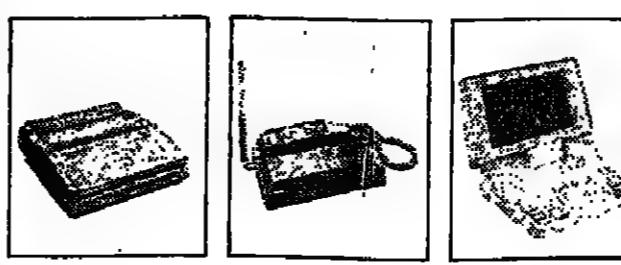
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ARTS

PHOTOGRAPHY

Pretty paw show, good pedigree

John Russell Taylor on London exhibitions by two unusual photographers, William Wegman and Madame Yevonde

It is incredible that William Wegman is so little known in Britain. After all, he is the man who photographed Man Ray. Not Man Ray the great surrealist photographer — that would not guarantee fame and fortune in these jaded days — but Man Ray the large and rather melancholy-looking Weimaraner. When this Man Ray went to the great kennel in the sky in 1982, he was replaced by the no less photogenic, no less patient Fay Ray, and the collaboration continues.

Collaboration does not seem too strong a word, faced with the innumerable photographs in which the dog Man or Fay obligingly makes itself into a table-top, daintily poised on four spindly wooden legs, or enigmatically contemplates the result of a quick application of Jungle Red polish to the toenails, or pretends to be an elephant with a long grey sock for trunk, or becomes a New York society matron dressed for the ball. Either they have passed, as Constance Lambert remarked of something else, from the calm of a philosopher to the passivity of a dead object, or they actually enjoy and participate in the game.

A careful reading reinforces the philosophical view of the situation. From time to time a look of lofty tolerance at the vagaries of humans may be detected, but as a rule they seem resigned to, or even appreciative, of their role in the creation of Wegman's world. And now that he has taken to painting as well, perhaps the dog Fay will have rather less call on its energy and creative imagination. But if so, the extensive evidence on show at the ICA and at Hamiltons strongly suggests that both Wegman and the world may be poorer for it.

The ICA? What does anything so whimsical and frivolous have to do with that solemn temple of the avant-garde? It might, of course, be a bit of summer madness to give over the downstairs galleries to a lot of pictures of dogs in fancy dress, plus some paintings and drawings from the same hand. (The upper galleries hold a handful of rather wan and wispy paintings by Alex Katz.) On the other hand, perhaps the idea is to direct viewers towards the perception of more and deeper meaning than they might otherwise

(or soberly) wish to encounter. The lavishly produced catalogue does its best, linking Wegman with conceptual art and finding beneath the opulent surface of his newer pictures a continuing moral stance in relation to the inscrutability of the animal. Fair enough. It cannot be denied that the more apparently anthropomorphised the Rays are, the less spectators are inclined to go "ooh" and "aah" and see them as being just like people they know. Whatever the skin — leopard, zebra or natty styled aristocrat — the dog beneath it is still a dog.

No less *mutatis mutandis*, can be said for the "Goddesses" of 1935, the most famous series of pictures produced by Madame Yevonde. Slightly surreal in their conception and vibrantly, even luridly captured by the now obsolete Vivex process, they are intensely of their period. They are also, to modern eyes, given an extra layer of surrealist feeling by the weird dislocation between the subjects and the sitters. All of them are evidently debuts who would probably rather be on the hunting field than draped in all this mythological clobber pretending to be Hephaestus at the well or Europa with her piccolo.

There is easy fun to be made of some of the pictures at the National Portrait Gallery. But there is also a clear impression that Madame Yevonde would have shared the joke. Yevonde was, surprisingly, her real name: Yevonde Cumbers was born in 1893 near Streatham Common to a prosperous middle-class family, was a suffragette and became a photographer quite by chance, when she answered an advertisement for trainee pupil by the established Hampstead photographer Lena Cottrell. She did not take the job, but before long she had herself become a successful society photographer.

She does not seem to have been as limited as her professional position might suggest. She was always interested in the artistic side of photography as well as the technical, and on both was inclined to experiment. The idea for the "Goddesses" apparently came from a grand Olympian party of 1935, which

also presumably suggested the debby cast. But her imagination was genuine enough, and some of the more bizarre images work amazingly well, such as that of Lady Bacon as Minerva with helmet, gun and owl. Many of her more prosaic works at the time, the advertising pictures and the portraits of celebrities (such as A.A. Milne) are touched with the same weirdness.

The Vivex process itself, of which she seems to have been the great exponent, deserves at least a footnote. It was in certain ways parallel to the classic Technicolor process in the cinema which irradiated *Gone with the Wind* and made Betty Grable's lips redder and fusher than anything previously known.

Eventually Vivex, like Technicolor, fell victim to its own complexity, its multiplicity of negatives (on glass in the case of Vivex) and its expense of time and money. But one need only look at the mouth-watering richness of colour in the portrait of Vivien Leigh, quite undeteriorated by the passage of 54 years, to regret the passing of the process.

Madame Yevonde was no victim. She went back to black-and-white, photographed many distinguished women (one series under the provocative title "Dove or Predator?") and many no less distinguished men, produced an important photographic record of Ethiopia at the age of 71 and was active up to her death in 1975.

Though unlikely to be restored to a prominent place in the pantheon of great photographers, she is undoubtedly a substantial and significant figure. Anyone tempted to think that the National Portrait Gallery's featuring of her (with the co-operation of the Royal Photographic Society, to which she belonged for most of her working life) may be another piece of successful society photography,

She does not seem to have been as limited as her professional position might suggest. She was always interested in the artistic side of photography as well as the technical, and on both was inclined to experiment.

The idea for the "Goddesses" apparently came from a grand Olympian party of 1935, which



"Roller Rover" by William Wegman featuring Fay Ray, his Weimaraner, is one of the many dog studies included in the retrospective show at the ICA Galleries

CLASSICAL MUSIC: CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL

Fewer fireworks, more musical substance

Now coming round for the 46th time, the Cheltenham Festival is occasionally accused of being always the same, but there is a sense, even a melancholy sense, in which that cannot be true. We are most unlikely to relive the excitements of the late 1950s, when the advent of Harrison Birtwistle and Peter Maxwell Davies brought scandal to the Pump Room and affrontedness to the Town Hall; audiences have grown more tolerant, or perhaps merely less concerned. But, happily, excitements of a more innately musical kind can still happen. The best example on offer this year was in the revelation of a Double Concerto for oboe and clarinet by Simon Bainbridge.

Bainbridge, now in his late thirties, is a master composer for the orchestra who has written far too little orchestral music: it is good news that a compact disc including his Viola Concerto and Fantasia for Double Orchestra is

due to be released soon. The new Double Concerto follows in the line of those two works in being a continuous process of generation, involving in this case a sustained acceleration throughout a span of 20 minutes and at the same time a constant unfolding of melodic and harmonic potential, so that the music becomes at once more agitated and more complex, as if the complexity fuelled the agitation, or the agitation fuelled the increasingly fine detail.

The beautiful starting point is a long-held, wide-spread chord, out of which notes gradually fade to leave a bed of A major in the bass, over which the soloists stealthily enter in the same harmony, the oboe wildly high as it is through much of the piece. The clarinet is cast rather in the role of supporting instrument: this is certainly not a double concerto of antagonism, and only rarely is a concerto of dialogue. Instead the two soloists pursue very much the same line through marvellous

blendings, particularly in the long extensions of slow melody which occupy much of the body of the piece: slow melody suspended across a finely imagined orchestral background which gradually begins to sprout related melodies and activities.

Writing for a Beethoven-sized orchestra of double wind with trumpets but no trombones or percussion, Bainbridge creates an extraordinary individual world of clarity and sumptuousness, partly by the simple but immensely fruitful device of having the woodwind and trumpets in a group on the right, with the horns, exultantly whooping as the music bounds on, on the left. The A major of the opening has, of course, no tonal connotations, but is a signal rather of the concern for the harmonic series that gives the music its transparency and bright colour. Indeed, its vivacity is such that the ending, when it has started to move with a jazz-style beat and voluptuousness, is per-

haps a shade abrupt, though the sudden cut-off may be part of the intention. It decidedly leaves one wanting to hear the whole process again.

Preferably that would be with the same musicians as gave this first performance. Nicholas Daniel was sheerly spectacular, never seeming strained, in the high oboe part, and if the clarinetist Joy Farrall was a more shadowy presence, that was in the nature of the piece. Richard Hickox conducted a City of London Sinfonia nicely tuned to the delectableness and energy of the music.

Daniel and Farrall also gave a recital with the pianist Julius Drake, proving that there is terribly little music for the combination of oboe, clarinet and piano, though their versions of a Telemann suite and of Dvorak's Op 47 Bagatelles sounded well enough. To compensate for the lack of literature they had commissioned a trio from John Woofrich, but his eight-minute

Pravda in musica seemed no more than a chipping from this well-stocked and generously inventive musical mind. More than a "story in music", it was a story about music, using a cadence from a Monteverdi madrigal to wend through musical history, far as Mozart, Wagner and (less identifiably) Nono. Beautifully made, it was beautifully played, twice. But Woofrich is too fine a composer for one to feel entirely satisfied when a piece of his costs so much in quotation marks.

At least here the quotation marks were conscious. Edward Harper's half-hour song cycle *Hommage to Thomas Hardy* took the risk of trespassing on Britten's territory, and paid the penalty of appearing imitative. But Stephen Varcoe's lyrical baritone expertly maintained a pivot between innocence and experience; the Scottish Chamber Orchestra was conducted by Paul Daniel.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

OPERA

Not to be described as family entertainment

An opera based on the "Manson Family" mass murders of 1969 has been premiered in New York this week. James Bone reports

The last anybody heard of Charles Manson was that he was safely in San Quentin State Penitentiary. But two decades have done nothing to erase the memory of the cold-blooded cult killing of the actress Sharon Tate and four others in her Los Angeles home, and the slaughter of another couple the following day.

Those murders in August 1969 put an end to the psychedelic Sixties, and the convicted killers, Manson and his "Family", a ragbag assortment of middle-class flower children on a bad trip, passed into popular mythology. Now a young avant-garde American composer, John Moran, a protégé of Philip Glass, has written a multi-media opera, *The Manson Family*, premiered this

week at the Alice Tully Hall at New York's Lincoln Center.

The subject matter, rich with themes worthy of Greek tragedy and more than a smattering of theatrical brutality, lends itself easily to the operatic format. As Moran puts it: "Once you get past the basic facts — that Manson and his followers killed Sharon Tate and are now in jail — you have a story that's incredibly involved, twisted and truly epic."

Moran, aged 25, is the son of a university choir leader and spent much of his youth in mental institutions before himself joining a cult for two years. He was

expelled from a music course at the University of Nebraska.

His life changed in 1986 when he handed a tape of his work to Glass, who was performing in the area. At Glass's urging, he moved to New York to pursue composition and now works with the Ridge Street Theater Company, based on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

His first large-scale work was *Jack Benny*, an opera whose score consisted of rearranged recordings of the American television entertainer's *Jack Benny Show* of the 1950s and 1960s. The *Village Voice* called the work "brilliant".

Although the Manson case had already been chronicled in several books, including one by prosecutor Vincent Bugliosi which sold six million copies, Moran wrote the story by consulting Manson family member Susan Atkins, who is serving a life sentence for murder. He now calls her "one of my best friends".

The Manson Family is more traditional in structure than was the plotless *Jack Benny*, tracking events from the murders to Manson's death sentence — commuted when the California Supreme Court struck down the state's capital punishment statute.

The score is largely electronic, with repetitive sequences of single notes like raindrops underlying such effects as passing car engines and television soundtracks. But it also includes parts for the viola and keyboards, and several times the characters are called on to sing in rasping, expressionist voices. Manson's voice is used briefly.

Behind, above and on both sides of the stage are large screens on to which are projected images, ranging from newspaper clippings to the bold red word "PIG", as it was smeared in blood on a mirror at Sharon Tate's house.

As in *Jack Benny*, Moran blends in mythic elements from television culture — in this case, the Hawaii Five-O detective Steve McGarrett, who replaces Bugliosi as the prosecutor.

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NATURAL FORM: Dennis Mitchell is a veteran of St Ives, and learned his sculptor's craft as Barbara Hepworth's chief assistant. There is no digital one can see the influence, but his complete yet organic-seeming forms take on an unmistakable life of their own.

GILLIAN JASON GALLERY: 42 Inverness Street, London NW1 (071 227 4826). Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, until September 10.

MANY SPLENDOUR: These seem to have been hardly anything Frans Brangwyn could do: he painted, he drew, he illustrated, he designed pots and fabrics and furniture. Some good examples here.

COURTROOM: Town Docks Museum, Queen Victoria Square, Hull (0482 222737). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun 1.30-4pm, until September 3.

WITH BITE: Alexa Hunter began a photo-series about people doing nasty things with spike heels. Now she paints, with full feminist fury, and consequent power. Latest: landscapes related to Camden Town. More psychological than topographical.

ODETTE: Odette Gilbert Gallery, 5 Cork Street, London W1 (071 427 5175). Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm; Sat, 10am-1pm, until August 7.

WELSH WIZARD: Not exactly a

born wizard, but George Chapman, over a residence of 30 years' worth, has certainly proved his right to be regarded as one of the finest artists sympathetic exponents of the Welsh school. Grim but invigorating.

PIPE SMOKER: The 1941 self-portrait in blue open-neck shirt with pipe clenched firmly between teeth provides the clue. William Orme's paintings are a stirring tribute to straightforward values and solid, realistic craftsmanship.

AGNEW'S: 43 Old Bond Street, London W1 (071 529 6176). Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm, Sat, 10am-4pm, until August 10.

ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM: Emerged from Germany, Hans Hofmann (1880-1968), became the spiritual father of the New York Abstract Expressionists. Powerful colours, expressive forms.

CRAVEN GALLERY: 17a Sloane Street, London SW1 (071 225 2460). Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm, Sat, 10am-4pm, until July 23.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

A case

'joyous production...'

ROCK: BERLIN

ARTS

The bricklayers' alms

Two years ago, former Pink Floyd member Roger Waters was in Dallas, Texas, talking to a radio presenter about the group's album, *The Wall*. During the early Eighties, the band had performed it as a music-theatre work in major cities of Europe and America. The record went on to sell more than 20 million copies, and the film of *The Wall*, directed by Alan Parker and starring Bob Geldof, has become one of the biggest-selling music videos to date.

Several years ago, amid a certain amount of acrimony, Waters left Pink Floyd, which he had formed in the Sixties. But since he was responsible for writing and composing *The Wall*, the Dallas interviewer wondered whether Waters would ever consider playing the piece again.

"I replied that I would do it as an act of celebration in Berlin if ever they took the wall down," Waters recalls. "A couple of newspapers got wind of the story and I was approached by a distinguished war veteran to perform it there for the benefit of a memorial fund he had just set up. This would have been last September, when things in the East were beginning to free up. But apart from being extremely impolitic and impolite, I don't think it would have been possible

Roger Waters tells Mike Nicholls how he was persuaded to revive his music-theatre piece *The Wall* for one show in Berlin tomorrow

to go to Berlin to play *The Wall*. Not when the chorus of the main song is 'Tear down the wall'."

However, Waters was sufficiently impressed by the war veteran, 72-year-old Group Captain Leonard Cheshire VC, to wish to contribute in some way. The idea is to raise a permanent fund of £500 million, the accumulating interest from which could be used for worldwide disaster relief.

"So we looked at other possible venues for a performance. I was thinking in terms of the Grand Canyon, the Gobi desert, Red Square or even Wall Street," he reveals. "Then, of course, the Berlin Wall came down last November, so we started converting my practice into practice."

The concert takes place tomorrow; 150,000 tickets have already been sold at £15 each. The box office takings (£2.25 million) will more than double with the sale of television rights, with an anticipated audience of a billion expected to watch the show live.

Waters expresses distaste for most concerts in large stadiums, "especially when you are charging them the same amount of money, if not more, as an ordinary hall where they can see more and in

greater comfort. But apart from anything else, *The Wall* was partly an attack on the inherently greedy nature of doing rock 'n' roll shows in cavernous stadiums. Pink Floyd only performed it in more manageable arenas, such as Earls Court."

Tomorrow, singer and bass-guitarist Waters, along with guests, will perform in Potsdamer Platz, once the no-man's-land between East and West Berlin. The fact that the central theme of *The Wall* is authoritarianism and the breakdown of communication makes the site even more appropriate—with Hitler's bunker in the shadow of the Brandenburg Gate, and the Reichstag just a grenade's throw from Checkpoint Charlie.

"We actually had to clear the area of grenades, not to mention barbed wire, bombs, mines and other live ammunition," says Waters, "but there was nothing compared to cutting through some of the red tape. For example, the performance involves using armed forces from both the East and West, plus the Red Army choir. Then special clearance had to be obtained to use searchlights, fireworks and two helicopters

we have requisitioned from the Seventh Airborne British Army Forces in Berlin."

Much of the effort has been made in order that the television audience may enjoy as awesome an experience as those actually there on the night. "Basically what we're presenting is music theatre for a television screen," explains Waters. "This is not just another televised concert. I don't think one can legitimately produce a good television programme which is just a rock 'n' roll show with camera crews rushing about. You wouldn't tolerate that level of production values in a movie."

A perfectionist for whom the phrase "doesn't suffer fools gladly" could have been coined, Waters is particularly concerned about production values. The costs are the highest ever for a musical event. He will not give a figure but claims they have all been covered by sponsorship and the sale of television rights.

"In order to increase the scale of the wall, to accommodate the size of the live audience, we have had to make it 200 yards across and 60 feet high. The inflatable figures are enormous. For example, the teacher's head is the size of a bus,

while one of his hands could garage a Mercedes.

"Quite honestly, I would have liked it to be a free concert, but the authorities convinced me that it would be dangerous to admit more than 150,000 fans. There would not be enough lavatories to go around, and the police argued, too, that more than a million people would turn up and there would be crushes and deaths."

"So we had to make the admission as cheap as possible and make sure people from the East could afford it. This meant waiting until after July 1, when both deutschmarks reached parity."

The delay has also given Waters time to collect a team of celebrity guests to join him on stage. These range from the likes of Joni Mitchell and Van Morrison from his own generation, to the more contemporary Sinéad O'Connor.

"They have not got much in common except they are all people whose work I admire," says Waters. "There will be no solo spots, as the idea is not for this to be another Live Aid. Nor is it a gathering of rock 'n' roll stars. It is just a piece of music theatre, with no headlining act. Even if there was, they would probably be drowned out by the helicopter."

• *The Wall – Berlin 1990* is relayed live on Channel 4 tomorrow from 10pm until approximately 12.20am



Composer Roger Waters before part of the real Berlin Wall

ROCK ALBUMS

A case of nostalgie de la boudoir?

Wendy & Lisa: *Eroica* (Virgin CDVX 2633)

BOUDoir pop-funk delivered in a spirit of sassy good humour remains the ex-Revolutionaries' preferred stock in trade, but there is also a strong back-to-the-future element to their music which is becoming ever more pronounced.

Many tracks on this new set, such as the sultry opener "Rainbow Lake" and the dreamy "Starling at the Sun", have that Olde Worlde "real" electric guitar and piano sound that Lenny Kravitz has cultivated so assiduously. The album is a whole is suffused with lush psychedelic overtones whose provenance remains firmly located in the original Summer of Love.

Typical of the trippy feel is the current single, "Strange Out", where harmonium and hurdy-gurdys wail and chunk through verses which bleed carelessly into a bewitching chorus. Here Wendy's seductive vocals play nicely on the song's mildly sinister theme, boldly embracing the idea of being in love as a metaphor for drug addiction.

On a heavier musical note,

"Why Wait for Heaven" drifts along on a languorous Robin Trower-style wash of power-wah guitar chords, its fine melody ascending to peaks of controlled ecstasy above the Mogadon-treated pulse.

The Prince connection lingers, but its grip on their music is clearly slackening as the girls' own, more centred neuro-rock feel comes into play. Even so, there is still more potential than there are fully realised accomplishments to speak of here.

Bob Geldof: *The Vegetarians of Love* (Mercury 846 250-2)

Any change of direction away from the fidgety adult pop which bedevilled Bob Geldof's 1986 solo debut, *Deep in the Heart of Nowhere*, is welcome, and this belated follow-up plants its musical roots in the more fertile soil of the Irish folk tradition.

The dominant instrumental textures are provided by Alan Dunn's accordion, shored up by acoustic guitars, violins, penny-whistles and ukelele on numbers which bounce along with a merry Gaelic

flair: "A Gospel Song", with its Waterboys-meet-Bob-Dylan ambience and "Big Romantic Stuff", with its mob-handed vocal chorus and typically depressing lyrics.

But even when Geldof is indulging in the withering contempt of "The Great Song of Indifference" or talking his way through the little inanities of life with no pretensions whatsoever, in "No Small Wonder" there is still a nagging impression that he is trying on other people's musical skins.

No harm in that, everyone from Kevin Rowland to David Bowie may say, but the peculiar course of Geldof's career has stripped his public persons of the artifice which is a primary weapon in the arsenal of most performers. Having given a much better account of himself as a charity worker—and, for that matter, as an author—than he ever will as a singer, Geldof is left looking for a musical role which he is able meaningfully to fill. *The Vegetarians of Love* is a comfortable but by no means convincing move in the right direction.

Once you have got past the grotesque cover illustration, *Frizzie Fry* is a trove of outstanding musicianship drawing on a bottomless sum of raw nervous energy.

There is an edgy, border-of-insanity quality to "Mr Know-it-all", "Groundhog's Day" and "The Toys go Winding Down", with their glorious, pokey riffs punched out in neat, urgent stabs of sound. Above all, the clipped chunky bass patterns, taut guitar solos and endlessly inventive drumming betray no hint of the overbearing sogginess that is the besetting vice of the more conventional breed of metal guitar bands.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Primus: *Frizzie Fry* (Caroline CARLP 10)

A Bay Area thrash-funk guitar trio with a difference, Primus exhibits the delinquent musical tendencies of early Frank Zappa updated to sit comfortably in the modern milieu of bands such as Anthrax and Faith No More, whom they have recently been supporting on tour in America.

Once you have got past the grotesque cover illustration, *Frizzie Fry* is a trove of outstanding musicianship drawing on a bottomless sum of raw nervous energy.

Once you have got past the grotesque cover illustration, *Frizzie Fry* is a trove of outstanding musicianship drawing on a bottomless sum of raw nervous energy.

Part 38 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act

A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years and have mustered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted

on to index cards and stored in a 6in by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

THE POGUES

Shane MacGowan's muddled rasp and the Pogues' hell-for-leather approach are unlikely ever to be palatable to those for whom folk in a rock context means the gentle whimsy of Suzanne Vega or the master craftsman approach of Fairport Convention. But the days when the Pogues could be ignorantly dismissed as tasteless hooligans desecrating a noble strand of the Irish heritage have long since passed. That image was first called into question on *Idle, Bodeney and the Lash* (1985), an album placed squarely in the post-punk idiom but drawing musical inspiration from the well of traditional Gaelic mythology. It boasts a fine version of Ewan MacColl's "Dirty Old Town", if I Should Fall in Grace With God (1988), album of the year in both *The Times* and *The Guardian*—spread the net wider with many pleasurable bursts of cross-cultural musical rearranging. It includes the hit "Fairytale of New York", a single which took the immortal line "Happy Christmas yourarse/I pray God it's our last" to No 2 in the festive chart.



PINK FLOYD

The album which dominated the Seventies was *Dark Side of the Moon*, released on March 24, 1973. It took Pink Floyd from the backwaters of English acid rock conceptualism into the international super-league, and defined an era of album-oriented rock, selling over 19 million copies. But the slightly ponderous air of mystery which cloaks this epic, and its equally weighty follow-up, *Wish You Were Here* (1975), is some way removed from the sparkly eccentricity of the Floyd's 1967 debut, *The Piper at the Gates of Dawn*. This album reflects the early dominance of songwriter Syd Barrett, who had moulded the group's R'n'B beat-boom roots into a vehicle suitable for inter-planetary flights of the imagination. The subject matter has become decidedly more earthbound since *Wish You Were Here* (1979), by which time the group was labouring under the yoke of bassist/lyricist Roger Waters. However, guitarist David Gilmour took over for *A Momentary Lapse of Reason* (1987) which ushered in a glorious Indian summer for the band.

NEXT WEEK: *The Police*, *Frog Pie*

CRITICS' CHOICE: JAZZ, ROCK AND WORLD MUSIC

JAZZ

RONNIE SCOTT'S CLUB: Trumpeter Maynard Ferguson thrashes out the high register runs with his apprentice big band, Big Bop Nouveau. Ex-Miles drummer Tony Williams takes over for one night only on Sunday, leading his somewhat arid neo-boop quintet. Branford Marsalis begins a week's residency on Monday.

KEN PEPLOWSKI: Making his first UK visit as a leader, the American reed player is promoting a lively Concord album, *Mr Gentle and Mr Cool*.

Pizza Express: 10 Dean Street, London W1 (071-439 6722),

tonight, 9.30pm, £5. Bull's Head, 373 Lonsdale Road, London SW13 (081-926 5241),

tomorrow, 8.30pm, £6. The Fountain, Parkway, Welwyn Garden City (0707 235041), Sun, 8.30pm, £6.

MARTIN TAYLOR: The guitarist's newest recording takes him into commercial session territory.

Bull's Head (as above), Sun lunchtime, Fri Sat, £14.20, Mon, £12 (members £9), Sun, £12 (£10 in advance).

SUN RA: Strangely popular with young audiences, the veteran bandleader serves up more intergalactic moonshine.

Wigan International Jazz Festival, Mill at the Pier (information: 0942 825677), tomorrow, 8pm, £10.

CLAUDE MARTIN: An assured young singer whose repertoire ranges as far as Betty Carter and, occasionally, Thomas Dolby.

HQ Restaurant, Camden Lock, London NW1 (071-485 6044), tomorrow, 8.45pm, set begins 10.30pm, £30, tree (to diners), £6.

DIGBY FAIRWEATHER: As part of the City of London Festival, the comet player makes the first of five lunchtime appearances, starting with guest trumpeter Kenny Baker.

Broadgate Arena, off Liverpool Street, London EC2 (information: 0171-248 2420), Mon-Fri, 12.30-2pm, free.

VORTEX JAZZ BAR: A notably strong week opens tonight with the quartet of township pianist

Mervyn Atkiss, followed by saxophonist Barbara Thompson (tomorrow), up-and-coming pianist Jonathan Gee (Wed) and jazz-blues singer Carol Barnes (Thurs).

Vortex Jazz Bar, 139 Stoke Newington Church Street, London N16 (0171-254 6516), 8.30pm, prices vary.

CLIVE DAVIS

MADONNA: Compared with the Kyles and Sinitas who followed her, Madonna now seems like a heavy-weight proposition, even if she has squandered a lot of critical goodwill with her scandalously self-indulgent *Like a Prayer*.

Advances reports describe the cuteness and cliché routines as both stunning and provocative.

Wembley Stadium, Empire Way, Middlesex (081-900 1234), tomorrow, 7.30pm, £5.

TINA TURNER: Continuing the latest farewell tour from the 50-year-old sequinned queen who is rapidly turning into the Mr Chapman of rock. With a gleaming smile and a body she is always a game and entertaining performer who bolts out her seamstress material with remarkable zeal.

International Stadium, Gateshead (091-477 5511), tomorrow, Sun, gates 3pm, £18-£22. Ipswich Town Football Club, Portman Road (0473 217272), Wed, gates 3pm, 8.30pm, £4.

THE ROLLING STONES: Keith Richards' sticky finger is on the wrong end of the week's date go-ahead as scheduled. The two Wembley shows have been put back to August 24 and 25. Original tickets remain valid.

Manchester City Football Ground, Maine Road, Moss Side (0121-273 3775), tonight, tomorrow, 8pm, £20.

WOMAD AT RIVERMEAD: The most ambitious festival of world music since WOMAD's first venture.

Performers on a strong bill include Van Morrison, Nigeria's Femi Kuti, Cuba's Irakere, Algerian Rai star Cheba Faouzi and Sonobe Kouyate from Senegal.

Rivermead Leisure Centre, Richfield Avenue, Reading, Berkshire (0734-591591), today-Sun, weekend tickets £30.

BANDA MEXE COM TUDO: A ten-piece group from Brazil that explores the varied rhythms of their country.

Bass Clef, Coronet Street, London N1 (0171-729 2476), tonight, tomorrow, 8.30pm, £6.50.

THE NEVILLE BROTHERS: Still plugging their recent single, a Northwest version of Leonard Cohen's "Bird on a Wire", the

DAVID SINCLAIR

WORLD MUSIC

U. SRINIVAS: The mandolin is not the most expressive of instruments, but this young player of Carnatic, South Indian music, manages to extract most of its limited potential.

Turner Simms' Concert Hall, Southampton University (0703-671771), tonight, 7.30pm, £5.

Pump Room, Bath (0225 315329), tomorrow, 7.30pm, £5. The Albert Halls, Victoria Square, Bolton (0204 364333), Sun, 8.30pm, £6.

SHAKUHAT HUSSAIN KHAN: The virtuoso tabla player from Pakistan will be performing solo as special guest on a programme which already includes Santoor player, R. Venkateswaran.

REVIEWS

Eminent Victorian revisited

THEATRE
The Silver King
Chichester

VICTORIAN melodrama has not been so lucky with its champions as Victorian architecture. Perhaps because the latter is so very much with us, its virtues as well as its huge vices had eventually to be recognised.

However, Victorian drama, that vast body of work, has been consigned to invisibility. Of all melodramas, *The Silver King*, by Henry Arthur Jones and Henry Herman, was one of the most successful. It ran for a year after its first performance in 1882, and was revived often in the first half of the 20th century. Peter Wood's intelligent, if not totally convincing attempt to reclaim it as valid drama or literature (as Matthew Arnold regarded it), yields some unexpected results.

Carl Toms' rather dark, heavy sets, which use the revolve to create interiors of pubs, offices and hotels, with grey brick warehouse walls in the background, anchor the piece in a Victorian London which suggests Dickens and Conan Doyle alike.

More important, Wood has opted for a fairly straight style of acting, eschewing the grand manner and exaggerated gestures. The main exception is Alan Howard's Wilfred Denyer, the Silver King of the title, who gambles away his fortune, believes he has shot someone in a drunken fit, emigrates to America, makes a fortune and returns incognito.

It is good to see Howard back in

the theatre after what seems a long and inexplicable absence. He remains a mannered but exciting actor, using his high voice like a flute, a reed, a trumpet, to weave spells of sound almost like a hypnotist. However, he is also capable of explosive action.

Without Howard, the evening would seem flat. In the first scene, for example — Derby Day evening in a London pub — having backed the wrong horse, he loses the rest of his money on the tables, asks his wife "What made you marry me?", embraces her, and pulls out a revolver with intent to kill a potential rival.

Meanwhile, in the same pub, a Scotland Yard detective is observing a crack thief. All this happens within five minutes, and demonstrates the special (and quite modern) qualities of melodrama: raw emotions quickly raised to fever pitch without elaborate build-up, in sensational situations.

Wood, interviewed by Jeremy Kingston last week, claimed to have cut all the asides. This is not quite true, and it would have been a shame to miss such gems as "The spider — at last" or "The man who showed me into Geoffrey Ware's room that terrible night — what can it mean?". Much of the pleasure lies in the recognisably melodramatic moments, the cries of "You infernal jackanapes" or the admission "Perhaps I have gone a step too far this time". These come from Richard Moore's pleasantly soft-voiced, villainous Spider. Other enjoyable cameos among Spider's entourage are Garry Cooper's mac-faced Corker and Ronne Leathem's vitriolic Cripps.

HARRY EYRES



Jessica Turner (Nelly Deaver; left), Alan Howard (Wilfred Denyer) and Lucy Baker (Cissy Deaver) in *The Silver King*

affecting for being played with a fatal reticence.

A guest conductor, Andrew Mogrelia, directed a sprightly account of John Adams's *Common Tones in Simple Time* for the evening's première. *Dancing Ledge* by Siobhan Davies. This is her first choreography for ballet dancers after experience with a variety of modern dance companies. The result is a little, twisting style of movement that seems to draw valuable qualities from both sides.

The nine dancers are kept on the go almost the whole time, working in relays. At first they move among giant figures depicted on hanging panels; when these are pulled away, the stage is dominated by a big horizontal tube which revolves to reveal geographical shapes on its surface and lamps within.

This design by David Buckland reinforces the impression that Davies, as usual, has an inspiring idea concealed just beneath the surface of apparently plotless choreography. It is mainly fast, opening out only at the end to a slow rapt finale. A distinctive and highly enjoyable work, excellently danced, it is the last creation commissioned for the company by its departed director Peter Schaufuss, and one of the best.

JOHN PERCIVAL

perform it every day of the week, but mainly because it is a boring song. They probably sang it to remind Wembley Arena that they used to be huge. The other number they performed, from their latest LP, seemed to acknowledge that they are not any more. "I Know You're Out There Somewhere," crooned Justin Hayward, doubtless referring to the record-buying public that got away. He might alternatively have been singing about the audience, which by no means filled the arena. The empty seats looked like the smart ones.

Early on, Stuart Adamson of Big Country set the tone for the evening by wearing pyjamas. He was not about to go to sleep himself, but did not seem averse to ushering other people in that

CONCERT
Oliver Widmer
Wigmore Hall

SO HIGHLY respected and highly subscribed is the Wigmore Hall's Song Recital Series that any one recital within it automatically receives something of an advance imprimatur. For even the debut of an almost unknown Swiss baritone, 24-year-old Oliver Widmer, the Hall was typically full.

Those who keep their ears to the ground will know that Widmer did not spring from nowhere. The surname has its own resonances (his father is the bass, Kurt Widmer) and Oliver had been booked on the understanding that anything that was good enough for the Hohenems Schubertiade was good enough for London. After lessons with Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and the advocacy of Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, Jr is now booked in to a healthy number of festivals and recital rooms. Some members of Wednesday's audience may well have wondered why.

Widmer has the quality of lyric baritone — effortlessly integrated, mellow, and bright with tenor lights — which could be listened to all evening. As an interpreter, though, and a communicator,

timespan is somewhat shorter. Diction is delectable, yet Widmer has too little to say. The voice moves with supple grace, but it does not always seem over-concerned as to where it is going.

So fluent is Widmer's delivery that he glides over many nuances of melody and harmony in Schubert's ever-sentient word-setting and ignores some of the music's tougher fibres. In an all-Schubert programme, this does matter. Long, four-lined songs suffered the most: his gentle, almost complacent approach came dangerously near to sending both the voice and the listener into a catatonic trance. "Der Fischer", too, began with some characteristically engaging, fresh story-telling, but its tragic ending was passed by in a tone of voice not dissimilar to that of the tender "Die Blumenblatt" or the tranquil "Meeres Stille".

Widmer, though, does possess a rare quality of wide-eyed, unselfconscious artistry and a latent sensitivity all too seldom found in young Schubert singers. If he can maintain this, break out of his narrow circle, and use both breath and imagination to cultivate different timbres and planes of experience, then his career as a *Lieder* singer could well have places to go.

HILARY FINCH

direction, and now were a lot of other acts on the bill. The other thing he did was plug the band's new product. Self-publicity used not to be *comme il faut* at these charity events. However, Wet Wet Wet were not above dropping their new single into the conversation; neither was Oleta Adams.

Adams is a special case, though:

she deserves an album sale or two

after all those years in the cabaret wilderness. At least with her, one was listening to the real thing, unlike the inauthentic soul of Taylor Dayne or Lisa Stansfield. It would be nice to say the same of Chaka Khan, but when she came on dressed as a rhododendron bush, the likelihood was that this would be one of her more wayward performances. As she smiled

her way through "Ain't Nobody" and "I Feel For You", it sounded suspiciously as if she was bowing for help from beneath her fluffy, body-swathing, purple sleeves.

The most arresting show was put on by two four-man camera crews, employed by a little-known extra-terrestrial television station to capture the event for posterity. As they wheeled up and down in front of the stage looking for the truth-telling shot of the sweat-soused chanteuses, trying to keep up with Stanfield's caged-cat stomp, one realised why filmed concerts have a tendency to look flat and dull. On this occasion, though, the concert gave a big helping hand.

JASPER REES

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Ana (a giant and father of giants, who sent

by Moses to gain intelligence, reported that there were no Amakins. When the Persian Land was conquered, Caleb had to

dispossess the sons of Amak.

MALCHUS (a servant of the high priest, who was present when Jesus was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane, and whose ear was cut off in the accompanying scuffle. According to Luke, Jesus put the ear back on).

ORDINARILY, one would not

wish a crippling injury on anyone,

but the Prince of Wales's broken arm looks a lot more like a bit of

good fortune than it did a couple

of days ago. It seems to have

prevented him from attending the

annual concert arranged for the

benefit of his charity, The Prince's

Trust.

Some guys have all the luck. It is

not often that listening to "Nights

in White Satin" is a highlight of

the evening. This is partly because

the Moody Blues do not exactly

perform it every day of the week,

but mainly because it is a boring

song. They probably sang it to

remind Wembley Arena that they

used to be huge. The other number

they performed, from their latest

LP, seemed to acknowledge that

they are not any more. "I Know

You're Out There Somewhere,"

crooned Justin Hayward, doubtless

referring to the record-buying

public that got away. He might

alternatively have been singing

about the audience, which by no

means filled the arena. The empty

seats looked like the smart ones.

Early on, Stuart Adamson of Big

Country set the tone for the

evening by wearing pyjamas. He

was not about to go to sleep

himself, but did not seem averse to

ushering other people in that

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JOHN PERCIVAL

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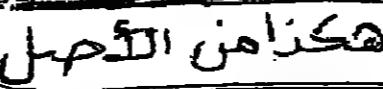
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BBC 1

6.00 Casfax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Laurie Mayer and Jill Dando 8.55 Regional news and weather
9.00 News and weather followed by The Chipmunks Cartoon 9.25 Hartbeat. Painting tips for the budding artist (r). (Ceefax)
10.00 News and weather followed by Double Dare. Stapstick game show (r) 10.30 Playdays
10.55 Five to Eleven. Brian Blessed reads poetry and prose
11.00 News and weather followed by Hudson and Halls. Camp cooking with Peter and David who are joined by the Harford Brothers (r)
11.30 60 Glorious Years. The work of the London Taxidermy Fund for Underprivileged Children which, in 1988, celebrated its 60th anniversary (r)
12.00 News and weather followed by Golf: The Open. Coverage of the second round from St Andrews. Introduced by Harry Carpenter 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax)
1.50 Golf: The Open. Further second round coverage from St Andrews.
4.00 Lifeline. An appeal by Claus Rasmussen on behalf of Parents for Children. Cliff Michelmore and Lynette Lithgow provide a run-down of charity news (r)
4.10 Paw Paws (r) 4.35 Gentle Ben. This week Bart Star, querier back for the Green Bay Packers in their wins in the first two superbowls, makes a guest appearance to show Mark how the game should be played and why teamwork is so important. (Ceefax)



Linus Roache's demented painter (10.20pm)

BBC 2

6.45 Open University: Science — Fires of Life. End at 7.10
8.00 News 8.15 Westminster
8.00 MasterChef 1988 presented by Magnus Magnusson (r)
9.00 Golf: The Open. Harry Carpenter presents highlights of yesterday's first round from St Andrews (r)
10.10 Cricket and Golf. Coverage of the second and final one day international between England and India at Trent Bridge. The commentators are Richie Benaud and Jack Gannister with summaries by Ray Illingworth and Sunil Gavaskar. Plus second round coverage of the Open Golf from St Andrews. The commentary team is Peter Alliss, Bruce Critchley, Alex Hay, Clive Clark and Mike Hedgeson and Stella Gooder (r)
1.35 International One Day Cricket. Further coverage of the one day international between England and India at Trent Bridge.
2.00 News and weather followed by Weekend Outlook. A preview of this weekend's Open University programmes (r)
2.05 Cricket and Golf. Further live coverage from Trent Bridge and St Andrews. Includes news and weather at 3.00 and 5.50
7.30 First Night of the Proms
@ It's 'make your mind up' time again; to watch and listen on BBC2, or just listen on Radio 3. You will know the arguments, for and against both alternatives, only too well by now. Better sound on Radio 3, provided you have gone all FM. Improved sound on television, but still not on every set,



Promo luminary: Sir John Pritchard (7.30pm)

and television directors have long ago learnt that they risk being lynched by every intelligent music-lover if they insist on performing silly tricks like showing the conductor's image reflected in a tube or the resin powdering off a violin bow. Tonight, it's Mahler's Symphony No 2, with Andrew Davis on the rostrum, the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, London Philharmonic Choir, and soloists Margaret Price and Anne Sofie von Otter. The whole marvellous evening is dedicated to the memory of conductor Sir John Pritchard, the Proms luminary, who died last December.

9.00 Gardeners' World. Later than usual edition of the BBC's popular gardening programme. Geoff Hamilton, Nigel Collett and Anna Swithenbank visit the largest bonfire nursery in England and meet leading Bonfire King Harry Heron at Trent Bridge. Ends at 1.05

5.00 Newsround 5.05 White Peak Farm. Episode two of the three-part drama based on the Berlie Doherty novel about an isolated sheep farm and the family who live it seen through the eyes of 13-year-old Jeannie (r). (Ceefax)

5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax), Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 Inside Ulster Sissons and More Stuart. Weather

6.00 Sat O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and More Stuart. Weather

6.30 Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours

7.00 Wogan. The guests are Nigel Kennedy, Jean-Paul Gaultier and, with a song, the cast of Showboat

7.30 Film: Secrets of the Phantom Cavans (1984) starring Robert Powell and Timothy Bottoms. An unexpected transmitter system, so an expert is hired to blow a hole in the mountain. When the system is installed, two guards mysteriously disappear and the group of anthropologists who are sent down to investigate the case soon discover why. Directed by Don Shap. (Ceefax)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. Regional news and weather

9.30 The Paradise Club: Crack in the Mirror. Drama series in which two brothers inherit their father's night club and his underworld network.

Drama is placed in a dangerous position when he refuses to become embroiled in the drug network of London (r). (Ceefax)

10.20 Omnibus Special: Van Gogh. In Anne Benvin Gyles's drama-documentary A to Z about the painter, all the letters are present and correct — but not always in the right order. Thus, Toulouse-Lautrec gets his name wrong only at third attempt, and Van

Gogh's plants the traumatic miseries along the road of his son's life even before Vincent cuts out on the journey. There are, however, legitimate dramatic devices in a film that does not intend to be a chronological record but rather chooses to draw attention right from the past to the present and vice versa, and the idea works very well indeed. Which is more than can be said of the sudden eruption of a 1980-ish television continuity girl, complete with clipboard, into the same cornfield through which Van Gogh (Linus Roache, every bit as demented as Kirk Douglas's Vincent in *Lust for Life*) is striding in the previous century. (Ceefax)

12.00 Film: Shoot the Moon (1981) starring Albert Finney and Diane Keaton. A highly charged drama following the break-up of a marriage. Directed by Alan Parker. 2.00am Weather

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Tomineone. Attempts to beautify Birmingham with hanging baskets and window boxes are enacted, although it would take more than a few plants to achieve the effect. We also meet a Colchester rose-grower whose nursery is 225 years old

9.30 Homelands: Vietnam — Van Cao and Trinh Cong Son. Last of six films about artists facing adversity in their homelands. This programme looks at the plight of two artists who remained in Vietnam after the Communists took over in 1975. Van Cao, the elder of the two, has only recently been allowed access to the West and tells an interesting story about his life and his reasons for staying in his extremely poor country. Trinh Cong Son, once described as South Vietnam's Bob Dylan, re-enacts the journey from the South to Hanoi that he first took in 1975. As artists they insist that they must stay and suffer with their people, which is why neither has joined the exodus, estimated at more than a million people, over the last decade. (Ceefax)

10.20 Uncertainties: How Do I Create? Bob Park narrates this series that looks at problems from angles that most minds would not even contemplate

10.30 Newsnight with Donald MacCormick

11.15 What the Papers Say. Peter Miller, deputy editor of *The European*, looks at reactions in the week's Press to the Michael Gove affair

11.30 Weather

11.35 Golf: The Open. Harry Carpenter introduces highlights of today's second round action from St Andrews

12.15 Sam International One-Day Cricket. Tony Lomax presents the ups and downs of the day's play between England and India at Trent Bridge. Ends at 1.05

1.00 News and Weather followed by Weekend Outlook. A preview of this weekend's Open University programmes (r)

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12.00 Film: Four Clowns (1970 b/w).

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English cricket at its sunny best at Worcester's New Road ground as Somerset go in for lunch yesterday in conditions far removed from the floods of January

Glorious cricketing weather here at last

By ROBIN STACEY

THE outfield at Worcestershire County Cricket Club was playing a lot faster yesterday than it would have done on January 29 this year when the stumps would not have broken the surface of the floodwater and neither, perhaps, would the shorter players have done.

Spectators in the lower tiers in front of the clubhouse at the New Road ground in Worcester were able to bathe in temperatures topped 80F in seats that earlier in the year would have provided bathing of a different nature.

While autograph hunters tacked Somerset players coming in for lunch in Worcester, virtually the whole of Britain

lazed in hot weather. Heathrow recorded the highest mid-afternoon figure of 86F.

However, temperatures were still much below the record July temperature in England and Wales of 100F registered at Tonbridge, Kent, on July 22, 1868. Epsom experienced a temperature of 97F in 1911, also on July 22.

Yesterday, the Lea Valley Water Company extended its ban on hosepipes and water sprinklers to 30,000 consumers in Harlow, Essex, and 19,000 around Epping.

The ban is to come into effect on Saturday at the same time as a similar restriction affecting 113,000 homes announced earlier this week.



Chief constables agree plan for 'British FBI'

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A POWERFUL police overlord to control a new national criminal intelligence service and five super regional crime squads, has been proposed by chief constables. The plan could lead to the British equivalent of the FBI covering serious crime across the country.

The plan for the intelligence service, the squads and an overall director were agreed yesterday by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and will be put to the Home Office. David Waddington, the home secretary, has already committed himself to the intelli-

gence unit and will now have to consider the other recommendations. After a year of debate on the idea of an FBI, prompted by Sir Peter Imbert, the Metropolitan police commissioner, the chief constables have agreed on a plan known as "option B". This combines reorganization of the crime squads with an agreed policy to create a national intelligence unit.

The present nine regional crime squads would be organised into squads covering the South-West, the Midlands, the South-East, the North-West and the North-East. The intelligence system would operate alongside them. Sir John Dellow, president of ACPO and

deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan police, said yesterday that police wanted to see the plan in operation as soon as possible. No new legislation was required for the intelligence service. However, funding would be needed.

Sir John said that the overall director would be an operational officer of chief constable rank for a job which would be powerful and responsible. He would be responsible to a management committee including Home Office officials, inspectors of constabulary and customs officials.

Under the proposed system, the director would have two officers of deputy chief constable or equiv-

alent rank below him. One would command the national criminal intelligence service, combining a number of existing intelligence groups including the national drugs intelligence unit, while the other would be in charge of crime squads.

The five squads are likely to have 1,500 men to combat national and international crime. Scotland Yard's serious crime branch is expected to commit its central drugs squad, and its task force which specialises in organised crime, to the South-East squad. Sir John said that the yard's anti-terrorist branch might also be included.

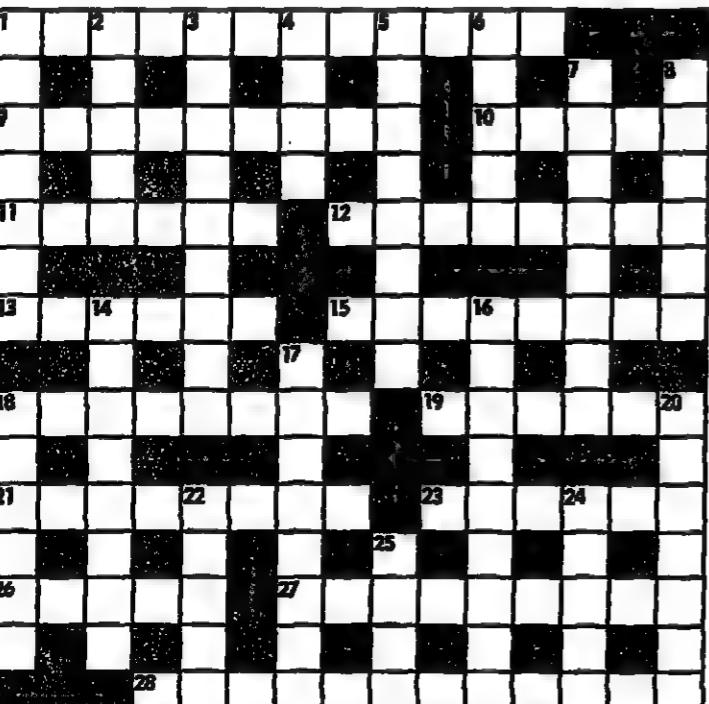
The South-East squad, covering the area of greatest serious crime,

would be led by an officer with the rank of assistant chief constable or its equivalent. The men in charge of the other four squads would be the rank of detective chief superintendent.

The intelligence unit, which would be computerised, would be organised in a pyramid from local forces to regional offices and then to national offices. As many as nine national areas of intelligence could be included, ranging from drugs to paedophiles and football hooligans.

Sir John said that the system for holding the intelligence would be designed to prevent abuse or misuse and this would be foremost in the remit of supervisory officers.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,351



ACROSS

- 1 Arduous improvised solo in musical accompaniment (4-8).
- 2 Bitter oil could be extracted from this old sea-creature (9).
- 3 Smallest schoolboy is at end of line (5).
- 4 The downfall of Dombey, to give an example (6).
- 5 Dealer in thrillers? (8).
- 6 Be inattentive and spill ink — get a cloth (6).
- 7 Almost have to stamp on rat (8).
- 8 King Charles to look from the tower (8).
- 9 Say we're thick-skinned, with this (6).
- 10 Sort of imprisonment of soul, it's said (8).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,350



The Eleventh Penguin Book of The Times Crosswords is now on sale in bookshops, price £2.99.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard
HOLY WRIT

HAMAN

a. A hanging guardian
b. Jeremiah's secretary
c. Abraham's concubine

AHIJAH

a. A minor prophet
b. To Elisha
c. A cruel Amalekite king

ANAK

a. A minor prophet
b. Solomon's favourite wife
c. A giant

MALCHUS

a. A minor prophet
b. A sceptical centurion
c. An earless servant

Answers on page 32

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0835 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks

London (within N & S Circs), 731

M-ways/roads M4-M1, 732

M-ways/roads M1-Darford T..., 733

M-ways/roads M23-M4, 725

M-ways/London Orbital only, 738

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways, 737

West Country, 738

Wales, 739

Midlands, 740

East Anglia, 741

North-West England, 742

North-east England, 743

Scotland, 744

I. Palmas, 745

Valencia, 746

Le Touquet, 747

London, 748

Lecce, 749

Venice, 744

I. Angeles, 750

Paris, 751

Tel Aviv, 752

Tokyo, 753

Luanda, 754

Karachi, 755

Tunis, 756

N. Palma, 757

Strasbourg, 758

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BUSINESS

FRIDAY JULY 20 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Ban on adviser secured by SIB

The Securities and Investments Board has, for the second time in less than a week, secured two injunctions to prevent an unauthorised adviser from giving investment advice.

Randhir Singh, formerly a top salesman with Abbey Life, has been ordered to cease conducting unauthorised investment business in contravention of section 3 of the Financial Services Act 1986. He has also been restrained from making misleading statements in contravention of Section 47 of the Act.

The SIB said it was investigating the affairs of Mr Singh who is not authorised to conduct investment business. Mr Singh of Dulwich, south London, was arrested and released on bail last month after an investigation by Scotland Yard into alleged irregular mortgage deals.

The SIB is continuing its investigation into the affairs of Peter Owen-Jackson, a former tied agent of Albany Life, who had his assets frozen in the High Court this week.

GUS payout up

Great Universal Stores, the mail order, Burberry and Scotch House group, raised pre-tax profits from £400.2 million to £417.3 million in the year to end-March. Turnover was £2.69 billion (£2.63 billion). The final dividend is 23.5p (21.5p), making a total of 34.5p (31.5p).

Tempus, page 27

P & P cash call

P&P, the computer services group, is to raise £27 million in a three-for-eight rights issue at 185p to eliminate £20 million of borrowings and fund expansion in Europe. In the six months to end-May, pre-tax profits rose 37 per cent to £6.8 million. The interim payout is 1.25p (1.1p).

Tempus, page 27

Clark rises 13%

Matthew Clark and Sons (Holdings), distributor of wines and spirits, reported taxable profits up 13.1 per cent to £9.5 million for the year to end-April. The final dividend is 7.75p, making a total of 13.5p (13p).

Tempus, page 27

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8155 (-0.0050)
W German mark
2.9807 (-0.0122)
Exchange index
94.0 (-0.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1688.7 (-11.9)
FT-SE 100
2387.3 (-14.7)
New York Dow Jones
2967.08 (-14.60)*
Tokyo Nikkei Average
33055.62 (+7.51)
Closing Prices ... Page 31

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 15%
3-month Interbank 14.5%
3-month Treasury bills 14.5%
US Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 8%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.54-7.52%
30-year bonds 102.1w-102.4*

CURRENCIES

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| London: | New York: |
| £ 1.8155 | \$ 1.8148* |
| £ DM 9807 | \$ DM 1.6440* |
| £ SwF 2.5571 | \$ SwF 1.4095* |
| £ FF 110.007 | \$ FF 15.150* |
| £ Yen 100.42 | \$ Yen 1.03* |
| £ Icu 90.40 | \$ Icu 1.03* |
| ECU 694.330 | SDR 30.738958 |
| £ ECU 1.440.237 | \$ DSR 1.35258 |

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM 01.55 pm-S\$62.30
close \$52.25-S\$62.75 (£199.50-
200.00)
New York:
Comex \$562.10-562.60*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) \$18.05bbl (\$18.05)
* Denotes latest trading price

COMMODITIES

| | Bank Buy | Bank Sell |
|------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Australia \$ | 2.415 | 2.555 |
| Austria Sch | 31.80 | 30.50 |
| Belgium Fr | 64.30 | 62.00 |
| Canada \$ | 1.16 | 1.06 |
| Denmark Kr | 11.94 | 11.14 |
| Ehland Mark | 7.28 | 6.98 |
| France Fr | 10.40 | 9.90 |
| Germany Dm | 3.085 | 2.955 |
| Greece Dr | 1.470 | 1.300 |
| Hong Kong \$ | 1.16 | 1.02 |
| Ireland P | 2.275 | 2.145 |
| Italy Lira | 265.00 | 265.00 |
| Japan Yen | 3.485 | 3.350 |
| North America \$ | 1.92 | 1.12 |
| Portugal Esc | 2.915 | 2.565 |
| South Africa R | 5.75 | 5.75 |
| Spain Pta | 15.00 | 14.00 |
| Sweden Kr | 1.20 | 1.20 |
| Switzerland Fr | 2.66 | 2.50 |
| Turkey Lira | 5.000 | 4.600 |
| USA \$ | 1.885 | 1.950 |
| Yugoslavia Dinar | 25.5 | 19.50 |

Rates for small denominations may vary as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 126.7 (June)

Offer to resign is last hope for Alan Bond

By ANGELA MACKAY

ALAN Bond, the Australian businessman, has offered to resign as chairman of Bond Corp and surrender control of the flagship company he built from scratch.

The offer came in package of sweeteners aimed at inducing holders of Bond Corp convertible bonds to approve the sale of Bond Brewing to Bell Resources, another arm of the Bond empire, and agreed to a one-year moratorium on interest payments.

Bond Corp executives contend the two proposals will buy the embattled group more time to cut its crippling debt burden by finishing half-completed deals to sell assets.

Bondholders of two issues with a combined value of \$US340 million met yesterday at Bond Corp's offices in Northumberland Avenue and agreed to adjourn the meeting until August 9. They had already planned to meet then to decide whether to appoint a committee to monitor Bond Corp's management.

If bondholders vote to approve the two proposals, Mr Bond said he would resign within 30 days. He also promised to surrender control of Bond Corp's board by reducing Dalhold Investments' voting rights to 25 per cent and restricting the number of Dalhold nominees to the Bond board to a minority. At the moment Dalhold, Mr Bond's family company, owns 58 per cent of Bond Corp.

The proposed changes have been under consideration for some time, and our commitment to the bondholders to implement these changes within 30 days of their approving the brewery sale and the interest moratorium should confirm in people's minds our dedication to do everything necessary to restore full value to Bond Corp," Mr Bond said.

After reading his statement to the first meeting of bondholders, Mr Bond left the meeting. Symbolising his new mood of appeasement, Mr Bond: taking back seat

Bond refused to sit on the podium, and sat in the audience.

Insiders at the meeting said Swiss Bank Corp (SBC) had played a pivotal role in forcing Mr Bond's hand. The bank told Mr Bond and his executives that if it was faced with a choice on previous terms, they would vote against the resolutions.

Significantly, a representative of SBC moved yesterday that the meetings be adjourned until August.

Bond Corp is also expected to offer bondholders preference shares which, if converted, will give bondholders control of Bond Corp.

For the first resolution on the sale of the brewing assets, Bond Corp needs a 75 per cent majority from holders of half the issues by value while for the coupon waiver, a 66 per cent quorum must give a 75 per cent approval.

About 25 bondholders attended yesterday's meeting representing some 75 per cent of the bonds on issue, according to Peter Lucas, a Bond Corp director.

American creditors of Bond Brewing Holdings have ordered legal proceedings to begin in Australia against Mr Alan Bond and two BBH directors, declaring them personally liable for repayment of more than Aus\$646 million (£281 million) worth of debentures (Brian Buchanan writes from Sydney).

In other Bond group developments yesterday:

Broker DJ Carmichael and Co said it had received a "steady rate of enquiries" for the tender sale of a 16.57 per cent stake in the Bond-controlled The Bell Group Limited, which owns *The West Australian*, the Perth morning newspaper. The tender follows a Federal Court order directing the holders of the parcel, Robert Maxwell, the publisher, and David Aspinall, the Bell chief to put their shares back on the market.

Bond Media Limited shareholders agreed to hand back the Nine Television Network to Kerry Packer for about 20 per cent of its cost three years ago. The fate of the takeover is effectively in the hands of Bond Media's minority shareholders because of a ruling by the National Companies and Securities and Commission disqualifying Bond Corp Holdings Limited and Mr Packer from voting their holdings.

Comment, page 27

Earnings accelerate as credit growth slows

By OUR ECONOMICS STAFF

MIXED data on the economy released by the government and the Bank of England yesterday showed credit growth less than expected, but the rise in average earnings accelerating.

The banking society lending rose by £6.9 billion, seasonally adjusted, slightly lower than the average of £7.1 billion for the previous six months and well below the £9.2 billion recorded in March, which was the last month in which banks levied quarterly interest charges.

Year-on-year growth in the broad definition of the money supply, M4, fell from 17.1 per cent to 16.8 per cent. Growth in the narrow definition of the money supply, M2, fell from 6.9 per cent to 6.5 per cent, still above the government's target range of 1-5 per cent.

The Treasury said the money supply and credit figures gave a clear indication of a slowdown in the economy as a result of maintaining firm monetary policy.

Average earnings growth accelerated to an annual 9.75 per cent in May despite a

successive monthly increase. Unadjusted figures showed unemployment dropping by 22,917 in June to 1,555,610.

Although employment department estimates point to adjusted unemployment on an upward trend of about 5,000 a month, the odd fall in the months ahead is not ruled out.

The employment department data provoked concern that the counter-inflationary squeeze has not yet produced a rapid enough rise in unemployment to exert sufficient downward pressure on pay settlements. Michael Howard, employment secretary, warned pay bargainers that jobs would not survive unless settlements took account of the long-term competitive position of firms and the economic climate. But he voiced confidence that the present rise in unemployment was consistent with the chancellor's goal of lower inflation and maintaining employment long-term.

Underlying average earnings grew by an annual 9.75 per cent in May, the latest month available, unchanged from April, which had been revised up from 9.5 per cent.

In manufacturing, unit wage costs in the three months to May rose an annual 7.1 per cent, providing an encouraging slowdown from 7.6 per cent in the three months to April.

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Comment, page 27

Pact leaves little scope for extra public spending

Cabinet safeguards £192.3bn target

By RODNEY LORD, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE cabinet yesterday set the scene for the toughest public spending round of recent years by agreeing to stick as closely as possible to existing plans.

This leaves little scope for increased spending despite the rise in inflation and the political pressures of a pre-election spending round. Ministers agreed to stick to the target figure of £192.3 billion set out in last autumn's public expenditure white paper. This target would result in public spending at a level of 39.5 per cent of gross domestic product.

The overbidding of about £15 million by spending departments was not discussed at the meeting, nor were any individual departmental claims discussed in detail.

John Major, the chancellor, who

issued a warning to backbenchers this week that there was no "pot of gold" available for tax cuts next year and that he would not be planning any pre-election "boomerang", was said to have reiterated his determination to get a grip on inflation and to keep down public expenditure as a proportion of gdp. The prime minister endorsed Mr Major's recent warning that he had limited room for manoeuvre.

Ministers also accepted that the increase in public sector funds to sweeten the poll tax would leave less for other programmes. By adding nearly £3 billion to funding for local authorities, the government has effectively used up the scope for allocating the reserve to other programmes. Despite the difficulties, departments have made bids for extra

spending running well into double figures in billions of pounds. Among the biggest bids are those for health, social security, education and transport. Demand for higher provision for public sector pay runs across all departments.

The formula adopted by cabinet yesterday leaves a loophole for raising cash spending. The government will stick as closely as possible to the existing planning totals, with the aim of keeping the ratio of general government spending, excluding privatisation proceeds, on a downward trend in relation to the economy. Because higher inflation will increase the size of the economy in money terms, a proportionate increase in public spending, perhaps worth about £4 billion, will be possible without disturbing the ratio.

Ferranti reports £161.7m loss

By OUR CITY STAFF

FERRANTI International, the defence and electronics group, reported pre-tax losses of £161.7 million for 1989-90 after exceptional charges of £122.3 million yesterday and warned shareholders not to expect a dividend before December 1991.

Eugene Anderson, the chairman and chief executive, also unveiled a refinancing package pegged on a £46.8 million rights issue and said an announcement will be made soon on further rationalisation and redundancies. Ferranti will make 20 per cent of its 12,500 international workforce redundant over the next year, he said.

Ferranti is undergoing rationalisation after discovering a defence contract fraud in ISC, its American subsidiary, which left a £215 million hole in its assets. The company has obtained damages judgments of several hundred million dollars against former senior management, including James Guerin, Ferranti's former deputy chairman, in the British courts and is trying to have them enforced in America.

Ferranti is now divided into three divisions: aerospace, strategic management and commercial and industrial. "We have cleared the stable out, but it is nice to know there is still a racehorse in there," Mr Anderson said.

The company, which had a fall in turnover from £927 million to £795 million, sold £400 million of assets over the past eight months to satisfy bankers' demands, but is still short of cash.

As a result, Mr Anderson said the company will be selling assets including all or part of its 64 per cent stake in Zonephone to generate cash. But he stressed the new plans leave the company cash-positive for 1991, 1992 and 1993.

A syndicate of 27 banks led by National Westminster signed new facilities on Wednesday, leaving the firm with net borrowings of £75 million, against £110 million at the year-end, and access to £70 million of new advances and overdrafts. The one for four rights issue, arranged by Barings, is fully underwritten by more than 10 institutions.

Analysts said that while the worst is over, Ferranti still has several problems, particularly its dependence on defence sales. "The strategic management division is the only one in profit and there is still too great a dependence on defence," Patrick Wellington of County NatWest said.

Mr Anderson said 58 per cent of the company's turnover is from defence contracts. About half of £600 million of ongoing turnover comes from defence contracts with the Ministry of Defence, the American government and a UAE missile contract.

Eugene Anderson, the Ferranti chairman yesterday



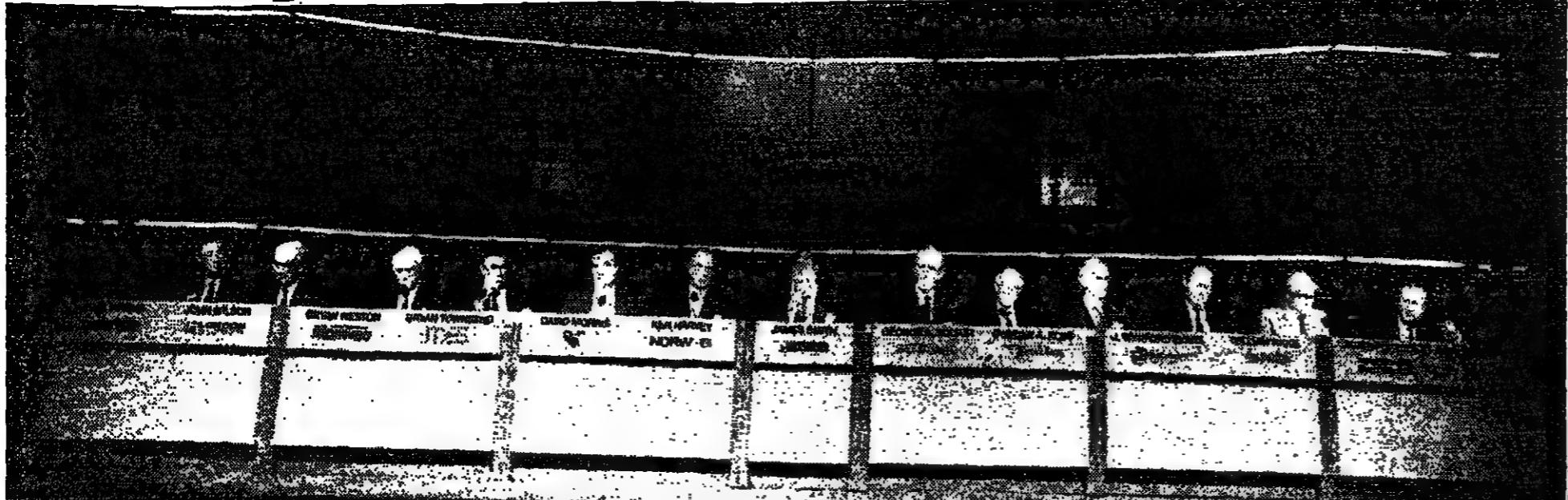
Industrial aid in UK under fire

By MICHAEL BINYON

IN BRUSSELS

Power profits static in run-up to privatisation

JOHN CHAPMAN



Power line: the heads of the 12 distribution companies deliver the results of their last year under government ownership at the Park Lane Hotel, London, yesterday

THE 12 regional electricity distribution companies have reported flat performances for the 1989-90 financial year, their last under government ownership.

On a historical cost basis, operating profits before interest from all 12 companies rose just 2 per cent to £819 million. An elaborate presentation at the Park Lane Hotel in London prompted only a handful of questions from analysts, which were followed by an "embarrassing silence," according to one analyst. He added that the accounts were a historical statement, but of little relevance to how the 12 companies will present their

accounts in future. The City is assuming that profits have partly been held back by undisclosed provisions for bad debts and similar items which have been tucked away for the future. One analyst said he suspected there had been "a lot of prudent accounting".

But there was some surprise

at the healthy profits from the National Grid Company, which is jointly owned by the 12 companies. The NGC made operating profits of £426.5 million on a historical cost basis. One analyst said this was "an extremely attractive set of figures", but noted that there were no comparisons. He thought the im-

HOW THE TWELVE MEASURE UP

| | Turnover £bn | Historic cost operating profit £m | Target rate of return (%) | Actual rate of return (%) |
|---------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Eastern | 1.6 | 102 | 4.75 | 4.20 |
| East Midlands | 1.3 | 73 | 4.75 | 4.44 |
| London | 1.1 | 76 | 4.75 | 4.05 |
| Merseyside | 0.9 | 47 | 4.00 | 3.50 |
| Midlands | 1.3 | 78 | 4.75 | 4.00 |
| Northern | 0.8 | 46 | 4.25 | 3.80 |
| Norweb | 1.2 | 71 | 4.75 | 4.01 |
| Seabord | 1.0 | 46 | 4.75 | 3.35 |
| South Wales | 1.5 | 65 | 4.75 | 4.35 |
| S Westm | 0.6 | 21 | 3.90 | 3.00 |
| Yorkshire | 0.7 | 63 | 4.75 | 4.78 |
| | 1.3 | 94 | 4.25 | 3.88 |

portance of the National Grid to the whole operation had been underestimated.

The government is today likely to finalise negotiations with Yorkshire and London

Electricity, the two companies that are still holding out over the amount of debt to be injected on privatisation.

A formal announcement is due early next week. The 12

companies say the negotiations and the outcome were "hard but fair."

Duncan Ross, the chairman of Southern, said: "The basis on which we are going to enter the new world seems to me a fair and reasonable one, and does give us flexibility."

James Smith, the chairman of Eastern and the spokesman for all 12 companies at the presentation, blamed the flat profits on the mild winter, the need to repair storm damage, and the costs incurred in the run-up to privatisation. He refused to be drawn on prospects for the current year.

Asked about a gloomy City forecast of an increase in unit sales of just 1.5 per cent, he said: "That's an opinion that anyone is free to have."

For the Labour party at least, the figures were a "off-off". Focusing on the current cost pre-tax line, including interest earned which would not be forthcoming post-privatisation, Frank Dobson, the shadow energy secretary, said the 17 per cent increase shown did not justify a 9.5 per cent rise in prices.

He added: "Equally scandalous is the way electricity users' money has been poured into the pockets of City advisers. Between them, the area boards and the grid company paid out £30 million, and there's more to come this year."

BAA to take over ownership of de Savary airport

By OUR CITY STAFF

PETER de Savary, the property and shipping services entrepreneur, has sold part of a joint venture with London & Edinburgh Trust to give BAA, the airport operator, ownership of Southampton Eastleigh Airport.

Airports UK, BAA's subsidiary, has built up traffic at Southampton over the past six years and plans to spend about £20 million on a new terminal to double passenger capacity.

BAA had been operating on a lease. Now, for an undisclosed sum, BAA has the freehold of the airport, including its single runway and existing elderly terminal buildings. These will be replaced by the new terminal and other facilities will be upgraded.

It is believed the deal with the de Savary partnership is worth more than £15 million.

Macarthy profits fall to £2.39m

By PHILIP PANGALOS

MACARTHY, the pharmaceutical wholesaler and chemist, reports a drop in pre-tax profits from £4.26 million in its books, has been ordered to cease trading following growing concern about its investment activities.

The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation issued the order yesterday and has appointed trustees to protect client assets.

The move follows the suspension of Lovell & Co, the Newcastle stockbroker, which was ordered to cease trading last month after the discovery of a shortfall in the firm's capital.

The Securities Association went on to suspend Richard Hexton, an investment adviser at Lovell, for breaching the conditions of his securities registration.

Herrington was recently sold to Gainspe, a company owned by directors of Lovell.

John Morgan, chief executive of Inuro, said there had

Northeast investment firm ordered to cease trading

By JON ADEWORTH

HERRINGTON Financial Services, a Newcastle investment firm with £10 million on its books, has been ordered to cease trading following growing concern about its investment activities.

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John Morgan, chief executive of Inuro, said there had

been concern about Herrington's connection with Lovell.

He said there was no reason to believe that any client money had gone missing, but Inuro was concerned about the nature of investments made by the company.

The choice of two or three shares in particular had given cause for alarm.

Edward Klemper and Gordon Goldie of Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte have been appointed joint trustees of the company's assets. Mr Klemper is also trustee of client assets.

These powers do not extend to distributing company or client funds, therefore the appointment effectively places a temporary freeze upon withdrawals by investors.

A letter will be sent to clients by the trustees explaining where they stand.

A meeting of investors will be held in Newcastle on July 30 when more details are expected.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Midland Bank debt downgraded by S&P

STANDARD & Poor's, the rating agency, has downgraded \$3.1 billion of Midland Bank's debt, blaming a downturn in major areas of its financial performance. The agency, whose ratings are closely watched by international bond dealers and investors, reduced the bank's long-term rating from AA- to A+, and its subordinated debt from A+ to A.

The agency said the move was caused by the downturn in profits at Midland and that "prospects for recovery in 1990 are unlikely given current market pressures." Midland lost £261 million last year due to Third World debt provisions, and issued a warning in March that its half-year operating profits would not match last year's. S&P also highlighted Midland's capital adequacy ratios, and its level of provisioning against Third World debt, which, it said, "are well below most peers".

Zetters rises to £1.12m

PRE-TAX profits at Zetters

Group, the football pools

company, advanced by 45

per cent to £1.12 million in

the year to end-March. The

previous year's result was

depressed by the effects of

the 1988 postal strike. Turn-

over grew 7 per cent to £25.6

million. Earnings per share

rose from 7.2p to 10.2p. The

final dividend is improved to

5.25p (4.5p), making a

total of 7p (6p). The share

price eased 2p to 140p.

Lasmo buys oil assets

LASMO confirmed the acquisition of Placid Oil (UK), which holds a 22.97 per cent interest in North Sea block 16/12A, for about £20 million. Lasmo is also acquiring Occidental's 26.74 per cent stake in the block in return for interests which include a stake in the Chatter field. The deal takes Lasmo's share of block 16/12A which includes the Birch, North Birch and Elm fields, to 58.85 per cent.

Reckitt in £60m sale

RECKITT & Colman, the household products, food and pharmaceuticals group, is selling its Fine Art & Graphics division to AB With Becker, a privately-owned Swedish decorative and industrial coatings group, for £60.7 million including payment of inter-company debt.

The division, which includes the Winsor & Newton Reeves and Dryden brand names, made pre-tax profits of £4.4 million on sales of £34.6 million in 1989. The sale proceeds will be used to help reduce the borrowings taken on by Reckitt & Colman to finance its £76.2 million acquisition of Boyle-Midway, the American household goods manufacturer.

Peter Walker joins Dalgety

FORMER cabinet minister Peter Walker, who as a former energy secretary came under fire for taking a seat on British Gas's board last month, has accepted another directorship linked to his government career. Mr Walker, who was agriculture minister from 1979 to 1983 and left the cabinet as Welsh secretary in March, is to be a non-executive director of Dalgety, the farm products and food group.

Tribune lifts revenue 14%

NET asset value as Tribune Investment Trust climbed from 269.6p to 278.6p a share in the six months to end-June, though it remained below the level of 294.1p. Pre-tax revenue advanced 14 per cent to £2.79 million. Gross revenue increased 14 per cent to £3.9 million. Earnings per share rose from 3.45p to 3.87p. The interim dividend has been improved to 1.7p, against 1.65p last time.

GWR profits drop

GWR Group, the West Country independent local radio contractor, has imported a "black box" from America which it expects to save 4 millions of pounds in labour costs. The system, which awaits IBA approval, will allow the company to use just one DJ across its five-station network with pre-recorded local advertisements, news, traffic and weather.

GWR reported a fall in pre-tax profits from £799.315 to £454.407 for the six months to end-March due to an industry-wide drop in advertising revenue. The company said advertising revenue, which was down 6 per cent, is now recovering. GWR's earnings per share are almost halved, from 18.8p to 9.5p. The interim dividend is unchanged at 3p.

German bank groups merge

A MERGER between Bayerische Vereinsbank of Munich and the Vereins- und Westbank of Hamburg has created West Germany's third largest banking group with assets of DM15.9 billion. Bayerische has taken a majority stake in Westbank, leading to greater co-operation between the two. The Munich bank had a 25.4 per cent stake in Westbank.

Sanwa reshuffle

Sanwa, the world's fifth largest bank, is reorganising its London division by merging its subsidiary, Associated Japanese Bank and Sanwa International. The group will carry out securities and banking operations and act as a base to expand into the European Community.

Tiphook sale

Tiphook, the transport and distribution group, has sold its Tiphook Siteguard subsidiary, which is involved in renting steel stores and offices, to Darchem Building Services for £2.9 million. Darchem is owned by a Darlington-based engineering group of the same name.

Administrators called in at Parkfield Group

By COLIN CAMPBELL

PARKFIELD Group, the manufacturing and entertainment group, has been granted an administration order "in order to protect the integrity of its businesses".

Michael Jordan, Adrian Stanway and Malcolm London, of Cork Gully, have been appointed joint administrators by the court.

They will work with the board to set up separate subsidiary limited companies to carry on the various businesses of the group's existing

trading divisions. Shares in Parkfield were suspended at 48p on Wednesday ahead of yesterday's application. At their 12-month January peak the shares traded at 518p.

Appropriate banking facilities have been agreed in principle to enable the businesses to continue operating.

Parkfield said Roger Feilner

was still chairman and the board of directors remained the same. It was up to the administrators to decide any changes.

BTG 'fit for state sell-off'

A RISE of 26 per cent in pre-tax profits at British Technology Group, a world leader in the intellectual property market, underlined the group's "fitness" for privatisation, Colin Barker, chairman, said yesterday. Group profits surged to £9.5 million in the year to end-March on turnover of £29.5 million, up 24 per cent. Mr Barker is hoping

for a privatisation commitment in the Queen's Speech for the next session of Parliament. BTG believes that business opportunities in several emerging markets could be put at risk by continuing state ownership.

Ian Harvey, group chief executive, said that a promising licensing agreement with a French research establishment

had been undermined by political sensitivities surrounding government control of BTG.

A planned technology transfer joint venture in Spain had foundered recently on similar grounds.

Mr Harvey said the situation could become increasingly difficult as BTG attempted to expand into overseas markets.

COMPANY BRIEFS

DEWHURST (Int) Pre-tax: £0.55m (£0.40m) EPS: 3.2p (2.27p) Div: 0.60p (0.47p)

SYMONDS ENA (Fin) Pre-tax: £0.25m (£0.20m) EPS: 3.823p (1.273p) Div: 0.54p mkg 1.25p (1p)

PARK FOOD (Fin) Pre-tax: £0.23m (£0.304m) EPS: 16.45p (16.46p) Div: 4.35p mkg 8.3p

ELANDSRAND GOLD Pre-tax: £37.8m (£32.1m) EPS: 28c (33c) Div: 15c

SMITHVAAL HOLDINGS Pre-tax: £83.6m (£142.

STOCK MARKET

Share prices beat a ragged retreat

By MICHAEL CLARK, STOCK MARKET CORRESPONDENT

AFTER resisting the force of gravity for much of the day, share prices in London gave up ground after another hesitant start to trading on Wall Street where the likelihood of the Dow Jones industrial average breaching the 3,000 level soon is starting to fade.

Prices rallied after an early mark-down, helped by a firm start to trading on the futures market where the FT-SE 100 index September series continued to trade at a healthy premium, indicating that dealers and professional investors believe that the London market still has a little way to run before peaking. The absence of sellers and persistent thin conditions left market-makers with little option but to follow the crowd.

But an early fall of 22 points in the Dow average turned the tables and soon had share prices in London beating a ragged retreat in after-hours dealings. The FT-SE 100 index ended at its lowest level of the day, 14.7 points down at 2,387.3, while the narrower FT index of 30 shares fell 1.9 to 1,868.7. Business remained low with only 412 million shares traded.

Government securities suf-

fered falls of 2% at the longer end as the pound came in for profit-taking after its recent strong run.

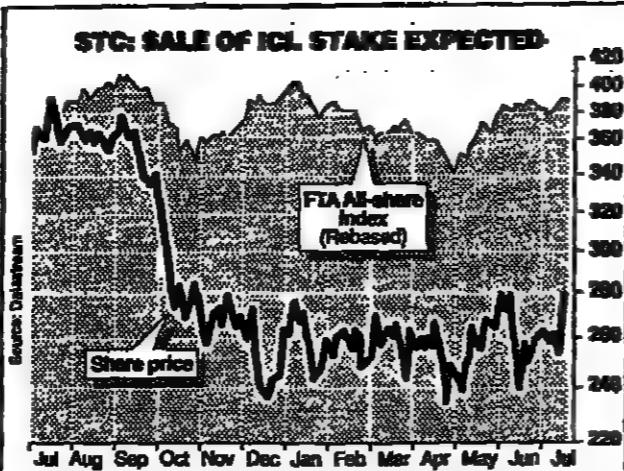
STC, the electronics and communications group, rose 23p to 281p (briefly touching 295p) after a report that the sale of a majority stake in its ICL computer subsidiary may be near. Fujitsu, Japan's leading computer manufacturer, is talking with STC and dealers are hoping for an announcement towards the end of this month.

STC has been a depressed

Broker are taking a closer look at Cable and Wireless, down 15p at 535p. They are worried by increased competition and the effect of a strong pound on overseas earnings. Smith New Court recently sold 50 million shares belonging to Hutchison Whampoa and remains cautious.

market after a profits warning recently. A total of 23 million STC shares were traded.

Full-year figures from Zetters, the football pools operator, showed pre-tax profits rising from £772,004 to



£1.1 million. The shares finished 2p lower at 140p.

Ferrari International, the troubled defence electronics group, fell 24p to 30p after reporting pre-tax losses of £16.7 million. This was after £22 million of exceptional items and interest charges of £20 million. The exceptional items relate to the alleged fraud at its ESC subsidiary and to restructuring costs. The group confirmed that it was going ahead with its £47 million rights issue.

Old Mutual Investments continued to go from strength to strength with a rise of 7p to 327p. The group's new Helios system, which generates X-rays for use in microchip technology has just gone on stream, at about £15 million a time. Analysts claim that it could be a big profit-earner for the group.

Gains among the clearing banks were reversed after Standard & Poor's, the rating agency, downgraded its credit rating for Midland Bank, down 3p to 302p. Falls were also seen in Barclays, 7p to 415p, Lloyds, 5p to 307p, and National Westminster, 2p to 335p. The banks' interim reporting season begins soon.

Matthew Clark, the wines and spirits distributor, firmed

up to 332p after final figures revealed taxable profits £1.1 million ahead at £9.5 million. Shareholders will receive a final dividend of 7.75p, making 13.5p for the year against 13p.

Burton Group, the struggling high street fashion retailer, lost a 7p lead to end 6p lower at 103p as analysts gave further consideration to the group's sale of its financial services division to General Electric of America for £182.7 million and its decision to withdraw from property development to concentrate on retailing. Several leading bro-

kers have become sellers of the shares.

BAA held steady at 457p. The group has bought the Southampton Eastleigh Airport, which it had been leasing since 1984, from

Rank Organisation slipped 1p to 788p after the decision of the United States Department of Justice to attempt to block the group's £150 million offer for the Delaval laboratories, the Hollywood film processor, from CBS-Fox on grounds of competition. Rank and The News Corporation, which owns Fox, intend to challenge the action.

Trade Indemnity, the specialist insurance group, suffered a sharp mark-down but closed above its worth with a fall of 7p to 131p. The group has denied reports that it will have to pay out claims totalling £20 million stemming from the collapse of Colord

o. Peter de Savary. The group plans to invest £20 million in the development of a new terminal, capable of handling one million passengers a year. In the past six years, traffic has jumped by 70 per cent to more than 500,000 passengers.

Allied-Lyons fell 5p to 499p after confirming the sale of its Embassy Hotels division to John Jarvis, a former Ladbrooke director, for £186 million. His company, Jarvis Hotels, has agreed to pay £126 million in cash and a non-interest bearing loan note of £60 million, which is less than originally agreed.

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| No. | Company | Group | Gain or loss |
|-----|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 | Prins Marans | Properties | |
| 2 | Rothschild (as) | Building/Rocks | |
| 3 | WPP | Paper/Print/Adv | |
| 4 | Blenheim Exhib | Newspapers/Pub | |
| 5 | Carsberg | Industrials A-D | |
| 6 | Leeds | Textiles | |
| 7 | Lees John J | Foods | |
| 8 | HPP | Newspapers/Pub | |
| 9 | Manfield | Insurance | |
| 10 | Foster (Johns) | Textiles | |
| 11 | Gernot Nat | Banks/Discount | |
| 12 | Caparo Ind | Industrials A-D | |
| 13 | ASW | Industrials A-D | |
| 14 | Wood (Arthur) | Industrials S-Z | |
| 15 | Holmes Gp | Electricals | |
| 16 | Leigh | Chemicals/Fins | |
| 17 | Barlow Rand | Industrials A-D | |
| 18 | TGH | Industrials S-Z | |
| 19 | Johnson Matthey | Industrials E-K | |
| 20 | Speckhaw | Provisions | |
| 21 | Connell | Property | |
| 22 | Perseus | Building/Roads | |
| 23 | Marks Spencer (as) | Drapery/Stores | |
| 24 | Bromsgrove Inds | Industrials A-D | |
| 25 | Bank Of Ireland | Banks/Discount | |
| 26 | Alumasc | Industrials A-D | |
| 27 | Renold | Industrials L-R | |
| 28 | Grand Met (as) | Brewhires | |
| 29 | Tottenham Hotspur | Leisure | |
| 30 | Arlen | Electricals | |
| 31 | Micro Focus | Electricals | |
| 32 | Ocean Group | Transport | |
| 33 | Bignal | Industrials A-D | |
| 34 | Russell (A) | Industrials L-R | |
| 35 | Mander | Building/Roads | |
| 36 | ML Hedges | Industrials L-R | |
| 37 | BAA (as) | Transport | |
| 38 | Hazlewood Foods | Foods | |
| 39 | Power Corp | Provisions | |
| 40 | RPB Ind (as) | Building/Roads | |
| 41 | Allied Irish | Banks/Discount | |
| 42 | Fykes | Foods | |
| 43 | Queens Mead | Hotels/Caterers | |
| 44 | Powergen | Industrials L-R | |
| | Times Newspapers Ltd | Daily Total | |

Please take into account any minus signs

| Weekly Dividend | | | | | |
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Madeira aims to attract big business and the wealthy by becoming an offshore financial centre and free trade zone offering tax advantages

Treasure island in the sunshine

Madeira is staking its claim to become Europe's newest and most attractive offshore financial centre and free trade zone. The force behind the initiative comes from the Madeira Development Company (SDM), a private concern operating under an exclusive contract granted by the Madeiran government, which has a 25 per cent equity stake.

The SDM, led by Dr Francisco Costa, a persuasive lobbyist, has so far attracted eight companies to the free trade zone and nine to the offshore centre. It has also attracted four ships to a new offshore shipping register and persuaded the island's government to authorise offshore trusts, making Madeira one of the few places outside common law jurisdiction to recognise the trust concept.

As part of Portugal, which is a full member of the European Community, Madeira offers non-Community companies a fiscally advantageous way of reaching the European market, although poor communications to some extent vitiate its claim to be a stepping-stone to Africa, still less the United States, making it less likely to attract EC companies.

Its appeal lies in its uniqueness in offering not only a base on Community territory, but also total exemption from corporation tax, withholding tax and capital gains tax. Among other Community offshore centres, only Gibraltar approaches that combination, levying just 2 per cent corporation tax. In Luxembourg corporation tax is 36 per cent and withholding tax ranges from 5 to 15 per cent. But neither Gibraltar nor Luxembourg offers free trade zone facilities and Dublin lacks an international shipping register.

Another convenience is that companies registered in Madeira's offshore centre or free trade zone are exempt from the Portuguese requirement to present annual audited accounts. Dr Costa, however, is

adamant that the system, supervised by the Bank of Portugal, is protected from exploitation by layers of official surveillance. Before a licence is granted to an institution setting up in the offshore centre, the SDM, Madeira's regional government, the central bank, the treasury secretary and finally the finance minister may exercise a veto.

In the light of dark hints in some Portuguese newspapers that the offshore centre could become a conduit for illicit cash laundering, Dr Costa is at pains to emphasise that it is "very important to avoid any incidents that could give the offshore centre a bad image".

Madeira has more pressing problems. Until Portuguese

Property sharks and cut-throat developers will not be welcomed, but there is money to be made.

legislation permitting insurance companies and fund management institutions to operate offshore is formally ratified, the development of the offshore centre will remain stalled.

Lloyds Bank Fund Management of the Channel Islands is the only non-Portuguese bank so far to have obtained a licence, and it is still waiting for ratification.

In the long run, Madeira's main attraction will probably be to the foreign institutions offering sophisticated products that the Portuguese banks are not yet able to match.

Madeira needs to diversify out of bananas, tourism, wine and its traditional homespun cottage handicraft and embroidery industries. Tourism is competitive, but the other mainstays are shrinking, both as employers of labour and

as earners of currency. The island's economy minister, Perry Vidal, warns Madeirans against expecting too much job creation from offshore financial development, although the free trade zone and the deep-water port planned to complement it could, he believes, bring employment.

The authorities certainly expect to see Madeira's economy restructured to some extent by the free trade zone and offshore venture. Senior Vidal gives the comparison of Jersey, where in 1965 tourism contributed 40 per cent and services a bare 10 per cent to the economy. Now, he says, services account for more than 40 per cent and tourism 35 per cent. He believes Madeira can emulate that trend and may even surpass it because, unlike Jersey, it has the free trade zone in its armoury.

One sector that could benefit from offshore and free trade zone activities is property. Of the two, the offshore centre will probably have the greater impact, in the view of John Cully, a project director with ITI, a development company that has cross-holding with the SDM.

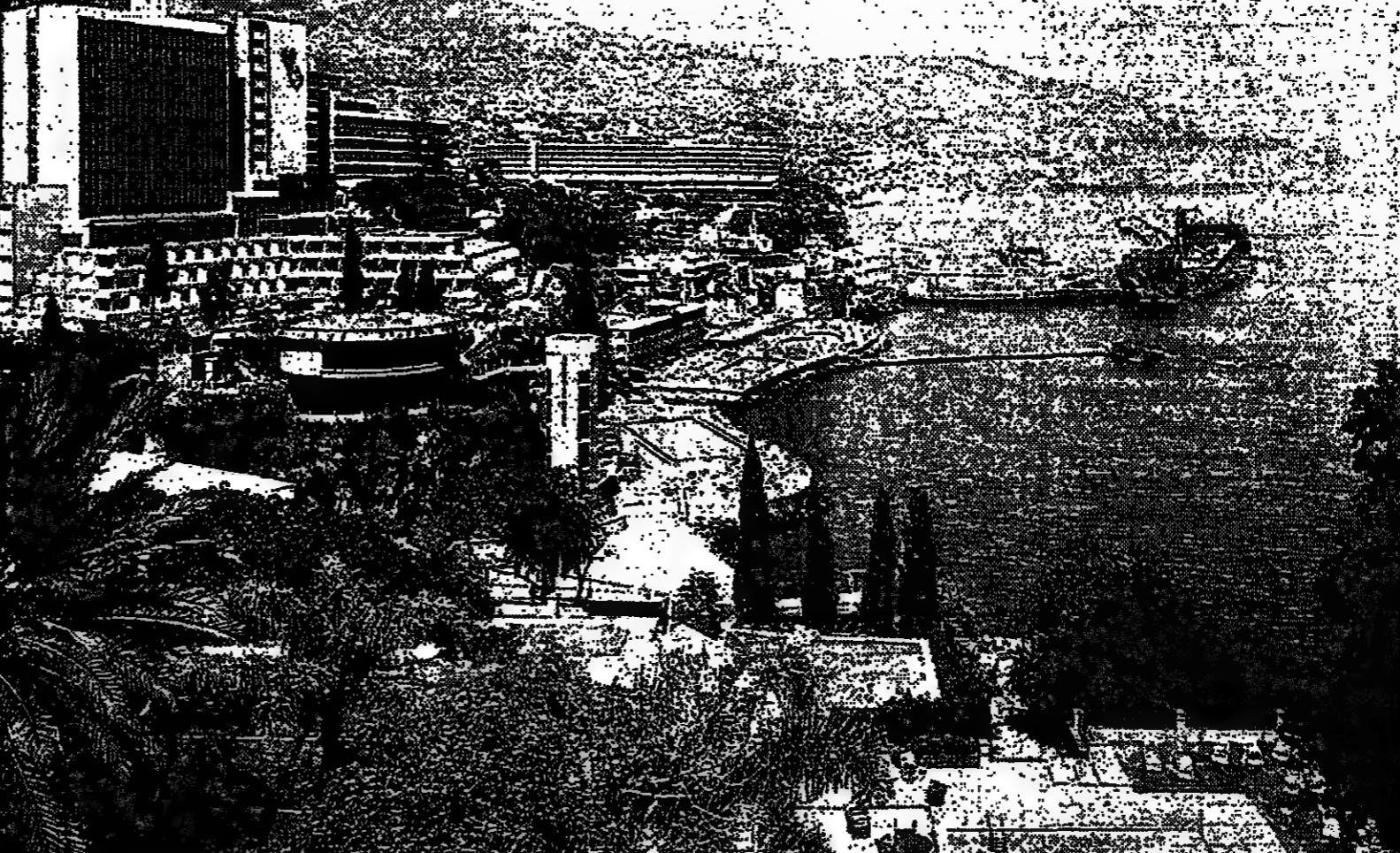
Mr Cully believes the existence of the offshore centre is already "an important factor in the decisions of buyers of holiday or retirement property, enhancing the security of the investment".

He says that Madeira, with its civilised, genteel traditions, is not likely to host cut-throat developers or property sharks.

Nevertheless, there is money to be made, particularly as there has not yet been a property boom on Madeira in other tourist centres.

Madeira has hardly any crime and few ideological or nationalistic obsessions to speak of—if one discounts the fierce denunciations of "the continental bureaucracy" of mainland Portugal. But it still has to convince a lot of people that this offshore island, 600 miles out in the Atlantic, is the best place to be offshore.

Portuguese delay in ratifying



Tax-free investment in an idyllic setting: Madeira has hardly any crime and has already attracted buyers of holiday or retirement property

Banks cash in on the tax advantages

Deposits earn more, loans cost less, more banks are expected

ing legislation permitting insurance and fund management institutions to operate offshore explains why Lloyds Bank Fund Management is still not in business, although it was licensed more than a year ago.

William Knight, the managing director, says: "We know Portugal very well and feel comfortable there, and, unlike the Channel Islands, Madeira is within the European Community." He explains that only in a European Community-based offshore centre are Undertakings in Transferable Securities (Ucits) legally valid. Ucits, which could become popular with the public as Community integration proceeds, are instruments for forming cross-border investment companies, and the fiscal neutrality of Community offshore centres such as Madeira lends itself admirably to this activity.

Portuguese law allows UCITS only to be managed in Madeira, but new legislation in the pipeline will permit their incorporation there.

The Portuguese banks are certainly there in force. David Caldeira, who directs offshore operations for Portugal's leading bank, Caixa Geral de

loan sector, where Caixa Geral is collaborating with large European and Japanese banks.

Caixa also recently bought World Bank-issued bonds offshore, on which it will receive tax-free interest, thus raising the real yield. "This deal would have been impossible for us onshore," says Senhor Caldeira, "since the World Bank demands very strict terms we can meet only under offshore conditions."

Portuguese companies raising short-term loans in foreign currency also benefit from Madeira's offshore facilities. Senhor Caldeira says: Instead of paying the present 21.6 per cent on the Portuguese money market, they can borrow, for example, Deutschmarks at 8 per cent or American dollars at 8.75 per cent directly from Madeira offshore.

The same external loan facilities would exist offshore as a leading Portuguese bank could instruct its Frankfurt or New York office to buy the required currency on the local money market, but this would add to the cost of the loan to the client, noticeably on large-volume deals.

However, one problem is finding qualified staff. Senhor Caldeira says, because there is

a big demand for trained banking personnel in mainland Portugal, where the sector is expanding. Another problem is lack of promotion.

Senhor Caldeira says: "We need to be known: Syndicated business—in particular—demands trust. They need to know who we are before we are invited to participate in an important syndication."

More promotion, he says, would help to attract foreign deposits, not only from expatriate individuals, but also from US dollar earnings of big Brazilian corporates, which now go mainly to the United States and Luxembourg.

Similar structures on the need for more promotion come from the International Bank of Funchal, a Madeiran savings bank that has gone offshore as a way of building an international profile.

Senhor Caldeira is optimistic that in the long term the offshore venture will succeed. He has only one serious doubt: if the European Community after 1992 liberalises tax systems Community-wide, it could diminish the generous fiscal advantages.

If this came about, non-Community funds would have to be attracted.

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1. Advantages for offshore financial institutions:

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- No exchange controls;
- Low initial and annual fees.

2. Advantages for companies locating in the free trade zone:

- Exemption from all profits taxes until 2011;
- Exemption in perpetuity from local taxes and capital gains tax;
- Exemption from withholding taxes on dividends and transfer tax;
- No exchange controls,

whether on commercial transactions or repatriation of capital;

- Staff training subsidies;
- Rebates on energy-efficient manufacturing processes;

● Exemption from customs duties on goods and raw materials imported to the zone;

● Exemption from export quotas on goods produced in the Zone and destined for European Community markets, except those applicable to Portugal;

- Such exports to the Community carry customs duties only on the value of any raw materials or components originating outside the Community;
- Raw materials and components of Community origin free of customs duties.

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Trading post with a prime position

Madeira's industrial free trade zone is at the east end of the island near Canical, five miles from the airport and 20 miles from the capital, Funchal. When complete, it will consist of 140 hectares, fenced in as required by European Community regulations.

The three-phase development still has a long way to go. Only the first part of the initial phase is complete. A mere 22 hectares out of 38 are ready for occupation, although almost all are reserved, according to Pedro Amaral, the project's chief engineer.

Senhor Amaral says that apart from the Portuguese, Brazilian and Lebanese companies listed, a Chinese company has signed up to manufacture textiles, and a small Irish jewellery company has filled the gap left by a South African food company that recently withdrew.

The zone's immediate priority is the building of a port terminal. Without port facil-

Work is continuing on facilities for a free trade zone, and more companies are being attracted to the development

ties, companies would have to import their raw materials and export their finished products through the container port at Funchal, and the road from Canical to the capital, although picturesque, is inadequate for commercial transport.

Work is due to start on the port in September, and completion is expected next year. That is when expansion of Madeira's airport is also due to start, to enable it to receive bigger aircraft and handle more passengers and freight. Completion is scheduled for 1996, but for bulk cargo a deep-sea port is an urgent necessity.

Meanwhile, work is continuing on the infrastructure of access roads, electricity, water supply and telecommunications.

from Madeira as from Brazil? "Yes, but freight rates are 20 per cent less from the zone."

Senhor Aguiar, like many Madeirans, takes a robust view of the Lisbon government and its treatment of Madeira, which he describes as colonial. He is bitter that Lisbon imposed a new VAT code in 1988, after he had started to implement his expansion at the zone. This imposed a 17 per cent rate on his industrial equipment imported from Brazil, when he had expected it to be zero-rated. Seventeen per cent is a lot of money on a \$2 million investment," he complains.

"The central government must change its approach to Madeira if it wants the zone to succeed."

Senhor Aguiar's other, home-grown, problem is the lack of a trained work-force in Madeira. "Training the local work-force is the investor's biggest worry," he says. "We shall have to use personnel flown from Brazil to train our staff."

He adds that, once trained, intelligent young people is available." Mr Heavey says.

He hopes to build up an \$8 million turnover within the first year. His business, he says, is to smelt gold and cast it in any form or carat the customers choose.

This view is shared by Michael Heavey, an Irishman, who in May started the Gold Bullion and Gem Company, which will occupy 285 square metres and employ 20 workers at the zone. "A big pool of

tax-free — so long as they export it, with themselves, when they return home. So the lack of port facilities does not worry Mr Heavey. "You could take half my stock away in your briefcase," he says.

Mr Heavey hopes to benefit from Madeira's year-round, upmarket tourism. The lack of beaches attracts an older, wealthy clientele. A small-scale manufacturing



Gateway to the free trade area. Port facilities, vital to the project's success, should be completed next year

The register gets shipshape

A new shipping plan should help Portugal

UNDER THE legislation establishing the free trade zone, Madeira was given the go-ahead to establish an international shipping register. The register started on January 1 and now provides Portugal with a second register. Lisbon has had one for several years.

So far, four vessels, all Portuguese, have registered, according to the Madeira Development Company (SDM). The Madeira Open Shipping Register (Mar) has pledged to honour all international conventions signed by Portugal. Passenger ships as well as deep-sea vessels are permitted to register.

All companies registered with Mar are entitled to the tax and other incentives available to companies involved in Madeira's offshore financial centre, provided they are also licensed to operate under the free trade zone legislation. Shipping companies owning vessels operating outside Portuguese territorial waters are therefore not liable to income tax on their profits or on the salaries of their officers and ratings, nor

need they pay capital gains tax on the sale or transfer of a ship or of shares in a shipping company.

Dr Francisco Costa, the SDM chairman, agrees that a main aim of the new shipping register is to staunch the flow of vessels that have recently been leaving the Portuguese flag. All ships joining Mar will duly fly the flag.

Dr Costa is confident that Madeira's location astride the main Atlantic shipping routes and the south-western approaches to Europe will ensure the success of the new register. He points out that Portline, Portugal's main general cargo operator, has joined. Portline remains on the Lisbon register but has transferred one ship to Funchal. Dr Costa says: "The main groups I need to satisfy are the government, the shipowners and the unions." He says an agreement is being finalised with the International Seamen's Union that will

confirm the Madeiran register as a respected, soundly based institution. "We are not," he says, "aiming at a mere flag of convenience register."

Dr Costa sees no reason why Mar should not have half a million tonnes of shipping registered by the end of the year, provided two crucial conditions are met. The first concerns manning. By law, 50 per cent of the crew and the masters of all Mar-registered vessels have to be Portuguese nationals. This law must be speedily amended if the shipping register is to have any future with non-Portuguese shipowners.

The second change that must take place, according to Dr Costa, concerns mortgages. Under present Portuguese law, creditors come last in the queue, behind workers and the state, in recovering funds in cases of bankruptcy or non-fulfilment of obligations.

Dr Costa says Portugal must fall into line with international norms giving greater priority to creditors' interests if Madeira's shipping register is to be a success.



Tradition: the grape harvest

Old wine, modern flavour

Campaign to double Madeira production

THE ORIGINS of Madeira wine lie in the 15th century when, tradition has it, Prince Henry the Navigator introduced the *malvasia candida* wine from Crete in an attempt to wrest the lucrative sweet wine trade from the Genoese and威尼斯人.

This was after the Portuguese discovery of Madeira in 1419. Later, after Charles II's marriage to the Portuguese Catherine of Braganza, Madeira escaped England's general protectionist ban on the export of continental produce to its colonies. By the 18th century, when Madeira was first fortified with brandy, it was *de rigueur* in the American colonies. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin bestowed the supreme accolade by choosing it for their toast to the Declaration of Independence.

When the phylloxera insect hit Madeira in the last century, resistant American vines were imported and the industry was saved, although the Suez Canal opening, which meant fewer ships called, was another blow.

In 1913 the wine companies formed the Madeira Wine Association, which has grown into the Madeira Wine Company. There are four Madeiras, every one named after the grape from which it is produced. The driest is Sercial, a Riesling-type best served chilled as an aperitif. Verdelho is medium dry, to accompany the soup course. Bual is medium sweet, an acceptable dessert wine. The sweetest is Malmsey.

Dr Constantino Palma, president of the Madeira Wine Institute, says sales of sweet and dry are roughly equal. However, as more people are drinking Madeira as an aperitif, Sercial and Verdelho sales are creeping up. Dr Palma aims to improve the image by selling less in bulk and more in bottle. "Ten years ago," he says, "about 85 per cent was sold in bulk. Today the proportion is more like 50-50."

About 9.5 million litres of wine

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BRIEFINGS

■ ONE in three new businesses are the creation of women but only 5 per cent of them hope to profit from them by earning more, according to a survey commissioned by National Westminster Bank.

The survey found that the main reason women wanted to run their own business was independence. Moreover, two-thirds of those hoping to start a business were ready to drop full-time jobs to do so. Only 6 per cent were unemployed. Half of those in the survey were married and 40 per cent had children.

The survey also showed that the main concerns were money (mentioned by 29 per cent) and fear of failure (17 per cent). About 40 per cent believed their partners would be prepared to use shared savings to finance the new business.

David Powell, head of NatWest's small business services, believes that while women may be apprehensive, especially about the financial implications of setting up in their own business, they clearly have the motivation, perseverance and ambition needed to succeed.

■ Michael Denby, new chairman of the British Venture Capital Association, had a special interest in small businesses when he was head of the association's seed capital committee. He now intends to make this one of his key priorities during his year in the top spot.

He will stress the need to make more funds available for smaller companies, for seed capital and for firms based in the less favoured parts of Britain. A list of venture capital providers willing to invest under £250,000 in the London area and £125,000 in the regions will be drawn up.

Not a second fiddle to farming

By DAVID THURLOW

ADAM Paul is probably the only violin maker in the world who also holds a diploma in fruit farming. He comes from a Suffolk fruit farming family and it is likely that, but for the European Community and the decline in the business after Britain joined, he would have made his living from the family business with violin-making as a hobby.

He had been to both types of college, learning about agriculture and violin-making, going as a teenager to Europe to learn a language and being the first Briton to take a diploma course at the international school for violin-making in Cremona near Milan.

Previously he studied music at the old College of Arts and Technology in Cambridge. He had loved music from boyhood and when he went to Cambridge could play the violin and piano and was instantly attracted to a violin-making class at the college. His interest increased after the director of music told him that his future lay in making the instruments, not playing the music.

He obtained his diploma after four years and returned to Suffolk to the family home at Parham Hall, near Wickham Market, where he converted an old dairy into a studio to make and repair violins. In the 18 years since, he has added violas and cellos.

When he was 24 his father reminded him of the family fruit business, so he went to agricultural college at Hadlow, Kent, for two years as a mature student, working as a violin-maker and repairing in his spare time. When he returned with a national certificate in horticulture



Fruits of his labours: Adam Paul in his Suffolk workshop

national certificate in horticulture

(fruit), the bottom fell out of the fruit market. His father suggested returning to his real love.

He already had most of the hand tools he needed, even making bow saws himself. Over the years he has added an electric bandsaw and a drill press. He needed little extra capital for other items, glue, bow hair, woods. These now cost about £3,000 a

year. "I had one or two lucky breaks when I started, an article in the violin trade magazine, one or two exhibitions and then became known by word of mouth. You need a break in something like this for when I started there were few violin makers. But there has been an explosion since then," he said.

As soon as he started, his accountant told him he must set up on a proper footing. Book

keeping and records being as vital as his manufacturing skills.

From the start, Mr Paul, aged 46, used home-made management aids. He devised a multi-purpose form on which he keeps everything to do with the making or repairing of an instrument on one side and on the other a time sheet with hours worked and cost of materials. From this he knows exactly what he has done and the cost as a financial control.

At the same time he makes out another sheet on which each instrument is detailed and numbered, with cost and repairs and thus its progress can be followed from when it is built and each time it returns for repairs.

But he could not live well on what he makes. The only way his sort of craftsmanship makes a comfortable living is by working long hours. "It makes a profit, but unless you want to work tremendously long hours you will have to find another job like teaching. I also lecture in horticulture, have 50 acres on which I have sheep and also show people round my workshop."

It takes a month for him to make a violin — he is a one-man business and intends to stay that way — and the instrument will cost upwards of £1,000. A violin also takes a month to build but costs about £1,800 upwards while a cello will take two months to construct and cost £2,500-plus.

He uses ten-year-old seasoned maple, spruce, rosewood and ebony for the different parts of the violin and gut or steel-wound strings. He has built up a list of hundreds of regular clients who return time and again with commissions coming from all over the world.

Gatekeepers aim to link inventors and industrialists

By DEREK HARRIS

BY THE summer's end, 14 enterprise agencies in key regional centres should be in top gear, offering a brokering service to link inventors with bigger companies willing to help to develop their ideas.

Business in the Community (BIC) has established the chain of "gatekeeper" agencies, which are being grafted on to established local enterprise agencies. British Petroleum is pumping-prime the scheme, which will be known as the BP Innovation LINC, a specialised version of the well-established LINC business introduction service.

This, through a network of enterprise agencies, acts as a series of marriage bureaux, bringing together investors and small business.

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Formidable opposition for Britons in the Parcelforce Games at Crystal Palace

Backley on brink of recapturing the world javelin record

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

STEVE Backley, whose other sport is golf, will have his mind far removed from the Open today. If he can throw his javelin one third of the distance he can drive from the tee, he should have the time of his life.

There are those at St Andrews who would envy Backley's 300-yard drives. Tonight those powerful shoulders will be employed in the Parcelforce Games at Crystal Palace, where a 100-yard javelin throw would be a record by nearly two metres.

The reason to suppose that here is as likely a place as any for Backley to throw a world record for the second time this season is the presence of Jan Zelezny. When they met in Oslo last Saturday, Zelezny became the third man this year to break the world record: his 89.66 metres surpassed by eight centimetres the mark that Backley had thrown in Stockholm 12 days before.

Magnanimously, Backley declined to minimise Zelezny's achievement by complaining about his Nemeth javelin, which is considered an advantage. It is acceptable for grand prix competition, such as tonight's, but will not be for the European championship next month.

Backley says he could use the Nemeth if he wished, but prefers the Sanvik. "I think we

are in for a humdinger of a competition," John Trower, Backley's coach, said yesterday. "In his second throw in Oslo, Steve did 87.94 metres, but he felt the javelin touch his head and just move away from him. The priority is winning but the world record is under threat." Wisely, Trower adds: "It could come from either of them."

Zelezny, a Czechoslovak, who is shorter and lighter, has, in Backley's words, "one of the fastest arms I have ever seen". The drawback according to Trower is the contrast in atmosphere with Stockholm and Oslo.

"At the back of the runway, the crowd are on top of you and there is an intimacy that does not happen at Crystal Palace."

The withdrawal of Peter Elliott from the 1,500 metres suffered five successive defeats but is more concerned with being right for the Zurich grand prix and European championship.

"I have never got it wrong yet in the big ones," he says. Kariuki, the Olympic champion, had \$38,000 (about £22,300) confiscated at Barcelona airport on Wednesday for breaching currency regulations. Britain's Mark Rowland, third behind Kariuki in Seoul, could stand in the way of a maximum pay day for the Kenyan at the Palace.

Said Aoutia:

Linford Christie needs a victory in the 100 metres as much as Julius Kariuki needs the money from the steeplechase tonight. Christie has made significant advances on last year, leading support to Brahim Bouayeb, the Olympic 10,000 metres champion, in the absence of the injured Said Aoutia.

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Britain's Mark Rowland, third behind Kariuki in

Gooch to lead England team against West Indies in limited-overs matches in New York and Toronto

Indians revive half-forgotten virtues

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THIE glib compulsion to look down the nose at every Indian team that visits here remains uncurbed, no matter the deterrent of recent results, and on the evidence of their first international outing on Wednesday the present touring party is as mistakenly underrated as any of its predecessors.

Without suggesting anyone should over-react to the muddling form of cricket's sprint distance, there was enough encouragement in all areas of India's game to confirm the impression that their Test plan will be refreshingly based on some half-forgotten virtues, such as wristy elegant strokeplay and spin bowling actually designed to get people out.

Essex are on the brink of victory

By JACK BAILEY

COLESFIELD (second day of three): Essex, with all second-innings wickets in hand, need 43 runs to beat Derbyshire. In mid-afternoon you could walk round the boundary at Castle Park and swear that every other person thought they had died and gone to heaven. The delighted Essex faces were watching Mark Waugh make his fifth score of over 100 this season and they knew they would have to wait a long time before they saw a better. By the evening, the looks were even more ecstatic.

For apart from Waugh's 126, from 151 balls, his partnership of 128 with Hussain in 21 overs and an Essex lead of 98 on the first innings, they were now watching Foster rip through Derbyshire's batting in the tattered and hostile voice of fast bowling which in an ominous spell of ten overs brought him six wickets for 28 runs. Derbyshire had subsided to 84 for 7 and it was all over bar the shouting.

A match which has seemed destined to go the full distance with the most likely result a draw, was suddenly turned upside down with a vengeance. As Barnett, Derbyshire's captain, wended his way back to the pavilion after he had been snappled up in the gully from the first ball of the innings that counted — the actual first ball had been a wide — he must have been reflecting on what might have been; reflecting on the prodigality of some of his bowling which had combined with Essex's excellent batting to bring about his team's unfavourable position.

But, by then, there was no reason for Barnett to expect his team to collapse like a house of cards. It was unfortunate enough to have to remember how Hussain, yet to get off the mark, was dropped from a difficult chance at second slip before going on to hit a six and ten fours in his rapid 60. How Baze, having trouble with his run to the extra set of ten balls, had come up 77 runs from nine overs in the morning as Waugh passed his 1,000 runs for the season en route to a 3½ hour stay which yielded two sixes and 16 fours.

On the credit side, there was Bishop's bowling, rendered infinitely menacing by his great speed on this wonderful cricket wicket. If only he had found the right line consistently. There was, too, the persistence of Miller in the face of periodic onslaughts. But Barnett should have bowed himself earlier. There was bounce here for the leg-spinner, as he discovered when he came on belatedly and picked up a couple of cheap wickets.

But there it was. Foster's hard hitting 32 was followed by a lively spell of deadly accuracy. Brown followed Barnett in his first over; and although Roberts struck out and Goldsmith flickered promisingly, Foster at one end and Andrew at the other were all too much for the rest.



Lean pickings: Jesty works the ball away during Lancashire's innings at Coventry yesterday but is unable to avoid the outstretched arm of Ostler, of Warwickshire

Nottinghamshire surrender to Marshall

By RICHARD STREETON

PORTSMOUTH (second day of three): Nottinghamshire, with four second-innings wickets in hand, need 14 runs to avoid an innings defeat by Hampshire

LITTLE resolution was shown by the Nottinghamshire batsmen yesterday when they were dismissed for 110 and followed on 191 runs behind. Fifteen wickets fell during the day on a pitch which, though dry, dusty and worn in places, provided no obvious explanation for the batsmen's struggles.

Foster removes all his fitness doubts

MINOR COUNTIES CRICKET by MICHAEL AUSTIN

JOHN Foster, the Shropshire captain and opening batsman, is a much relieved man after scoring his first hundred in the minor counties championship since sustaining a serious head injury a year ago.

Foster, struck behind the left ear by a ball from Dale Hale, the Oxfordshire fast bowler, suffered bruising of the brain and was ordered to rest for the remainder of the season.

This week's matches produced a series of high scoring draws with Graeme Morris and Paul Dutton achieving the distinctions of setting a third-wicket record for Northamptonshire of 212 against Staffordshire at Jesmond.

Simon Clements, the Hampshire captain, produced a startling performance with 137 for Suffolk, who made 243 for nine wickets against Norfolk after labouring at 17 for three.

England to meet Ireland

By CATHY HARRIS

ENGLAND and Ireland will contest the final of the second women's European Cup, after both teams won their second matches at the John Player AC, Nottingham yesterday.

Jane Powell survived a close stumping call early on in her innings to lead England to their formidable total, with an unbeaten 98 against Denmark.

In the other match, Stella Owens was in great form for Ireland, hitting an unbeaten 54, 42, 17 and 18 in her 10 overs (N) today.

TODAY (1am start; 55 overs): England v Ireland (Invincibles CC, Leicester); The Netherlands v Denmark (Electronics Sports CC, Leicester).

It had always seemed probable that their weak suit would be the one area on which other countries are concentrating hardest, the quick bowling, and Wednesday's events at Headingley did nothing to dispel the view.

Kapil Dev, for so long the bane of the Indian attack, only began to look dangerous in the frantic, end-of-innings slog when he picked up wickets by deliberately slowing his pace to somewhere near that of the spinners. A clever tactic in its place, but not one that is likely to cut much ice amid the more circumspect batting of a Test match.

Prabhakar and Sharma, the support seam bowlers, follow the great tradition pursued by such as Arind Ali and Madan Lal, honest Indian trundlers whose usual job was to

prove yet again that it does not need an array of cloned seamers to contain them. They took wickets too, Gavaskar falling for a ball from Kumble which turned so sharply that he first aimed to cut and then to pull before completing the adjustment by slipping the bat under his arm and departing.

The capacity crowd expected at Trent Bridge today, when both teams are likely to be unchanged for the second Texaco Trophy match, should look forward to Kumble as much as they do to the batting of Manjrekar and Tendulkar, the new generation that is hurrying India back toward the stability they briefly enjoyed under Kapil Dev.

Since then, a series of captains has come and gone, while the players' uneasy relationship with

their board touched rock bottom when the majority of senior men were suspended for taking part in unsanctioned one-day games in North America.

That ban was subsequently lifted, following legal representations, but it is oddly relevant to recall it today, for England's best players are about to undertake a similarly spurious mission — and their board admits it can do nothing about it.

About a dozen England players, led by Graham Gooch, have evidently agreed to play two limited-overs games against West Indies in late September. The venues are those well-known cricketing cities, Toronto and New York, and just about everyone seems pretty put out about it.

The England committee, power-

Somerset have to bow to the inevitable

By JOHN WOODCOCK

HORCESTER (second day of three): Somerset, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 106 runs ahead of Worcestershire.

THERE was an inevitability about the cricket at New Road yesterday, which meant that from the start of play we knew, nearly for certain, what the position would be at stumps.

Worcestershire duly declared

that, as we were saying the other day, money dictates in this game. If the official authorities do not fill every available day with limited-overs games, some speculator will do the job for them.

As for the players, their means

about long tours and lack of rest

quietly shelved when spot of pocket money is offered.

Spectators have been urged to

stay away from Trent Bridge today unless they have a ticket for the

match. A capacity crowd of 13,000,

is already guaranteed.

RUGH ROUTLEDGE

any similarity between this game and the one being played on the same ground last year is coincidental, and the groundsman puts the difference down mostly to the ball. Certainly, neither form of the game is satisfactory, but there is no doubt which is the more combative. In 1989, seldom a day passed at Worcester in which fewer than 15 wickets fell. In this game, only six have gone down so far.

Yesterday, Hick made his predictable century, though for the first 50 minutes that he sat in anyone watching him but for the first three might have been worried. He had not even got a wicket, and all the major notices had been absent. After Bent had been caught at first slip in the first over of Worcestershire's innings, Somerset having declared at their overnight score, Hick managed only three scoring strokes in the next 75 minutes.

Then, just as one was beginning to think that he will need to play better than this to walk in to the England side, he began to tame the ball. By lunch, his hundred could be taken as read. He has an unusual style, almost all his strokes looking alike. This comes from the fact that his bat is a pendulum, which starts at the horizontal and, seldom, swings through more than 180°. He stands astride the crease, seldom going right on to the back foot, as he may need to do against the West Indians next year.

Having been given a going-over by Wasim Akram at Old Trafford recently, he had built enough confidence yesterday, waiting until he was 144 before casting his helmet aside. This added to the somewhat robotic impression given by his batting, if I dare say, such a thing about someone so prolific. This, incredibly, was his 49th hundred in only 249 first-class innings, and his fifth in six seasons against Somerset.

On Wednesday, Somerset had reached 300 in the 9½ overs of their innings. Yesterday, Worcestershire got there in the 85½ overs of theirs, and once declared, Hick had hit 29 fours and one six, and got seven chances. Then it was back to Roebuck, who by the finish had taken his aggregate in first-class cricket since he was last out, on July 3, to 433. This time last month he couldn't get a run.

Somerset had been bowled by Connor earlier without offering a stroke, but he showed far more determination now as he battled gamely for more than two hours before he lifted a catch to mid-off.

Marshall took three of the last four wickets, though Johnson, the top-scorer with 34,

30, his best analysis this season.

Hampshire's all-time wicket-taking aggregates are headed by Shackleton, with 2,669 wickets at 18.23 each, and inevitably the list is dominated by long-serving English professionals. It is more relevant to compare Marshall with Andy Roberts, his Antigua predecessor with the county, whom he succeeded in 1979.

Both West Indians average just over four wickets for every match played for Hampshire, and in this respect they hold their own with the count-

ty's other bowlers over the years. Little went right for Nottinghamshire as their first innings subsided, with Robinson caught at first slip, while Newell ran himself out in spectacular fashion. He hit hard against a ball from Ayling and a theoretical chance was dropped at short leg. Twice Newell started for a run and stopped. When he finally did go through for an attempted single he had no chance of beating Park's throw.

Marshall took three of the last four wickets, though Johnson, the top-scorer with 34, eluded him. Johnson clipped a catch to short mid-on off Maru. The square also bowled Johnson with a ball that turned in the rough as Newell ran himself out in Nottinghamshire again shamed when they followed on. Johnson, therefore, had the unusual experience of being dismissed twice in the afternoon session by the same bowler.

Saxby had been bowled by Connor earlier without offering a stroke, but he showed far

more determination now as he

battled gamely for more than two hours before he lifted a catch to mid-off.

Fairbrother back to his best with dogged double-century

By IVO TENNANT

runs were scored from just 223 balls.

It was, of course, a different scenario from Test cricket at the Oval in May. The pitch was not so bland and the context was greatly different. This was no exercise in breaking records for the sake of it. His helmet stayed on and the runs kept flowing until Lancashire declared, 42 runs behind. Dropped just once, on 186 off Mendis' misjudged 20th over, he hit three lovely catches at third slip. The first, to dismiss Fritton, was wide to his left, the second, a one, accounted for Jesty, and the third for Wasim Akram.

When he commenced his innings on this, the most sultry of days, his county were 26 for three. In due course they were 116 for six, requiring a further 107 to avoid following on. Fairbrother simply played his natural game, attacking anything short or overpitched, or indeed on a length. He did his best to such good effect that his 203

was not quite enough.

Yet Fairbrother mostly fared better, whatever the conditions. If the square drive was his favourite shot, the pull and a clip which countered anything of yorker length, were just as enthralling. He reached his first century, made off 107 balls, by hooking

such good effect that his 203

was not quite enough.

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Fairbrother back to his best with dogged double-century

GLOUCESTERSHIRE have signed Paul Owen, aged 20, a left-arm spinner from Bedfordshire. David Graveney, the county's regular spin bowler who retires this season, is out for a month following an operation on a hand injury.

• The Cricket Society and London Community Cricket Association are to hold a joint fund-raising dinner in London on October 8. The speakers will be Trevor Bayliss and Christopher Martin-Jenkins.

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of three): 162 (D G Leightwood 60, M G Stephenson 5-40); Cambridgeshire 158-6 and 134 (D Sunter 4-28); Herefordshire 150-5 and 130 (D Studd 5-32); Gloucester 150-6 and 130 (D Reynolds 65); Warwickshire 150-5 and 130 (D Williams 6-17); 167 (R Pyman 4-23); Dorset 150-6 and 130 (D Studd 5-32); Shropshire 150-4 and 130 (J S Johnson 5-32); 187 (R Pyman 4-23); 189 (D Williams 6-17); 191 (R Pyman 4-23); 193 (D Williams 6-17); 195 (R Pyman 4-23); 197 (D Williams 6-17); 201 (R Pyman 4-23); 203 (D Williams 6-17); 205 (R Pyman 4-23); 207 (D Williams 6-17); 211 (R Pyman 4-23); 213 (D Williams 6-17); 215 (R Pyman 4-23); 217 (D Williams 6-17); 221 (R Pyman 4-23); 223 (D Williams 6-17); 225 (R Pyman 4-23); 227 (D Williams 6-17); 229 (R Pyman 4-23); 231 (D Williams 6-17); 233 (R Pyman 4-23); 235 (D Williams 6-17); 237 (R Pyman 4-23); 239 (D Williams 6-17); 241 (R Pyman 4-23); 243 (D Williams 6-17); 245 (R Pyman 4-23); 247 (D Williams 6-17); 249 (R Pyman 4-23); 251 (D Williams 6-17); 253 (R Pyman 4-23); 255 (D Williams 6-17); 257 (R Pyman 4-23); 259 (D Williams 6-17); 261 (R Pyman 4-23); 263 (D Williams 6-17); 265 (R Pyman 4-23); 267 (D Williams 6-17); 269 (R Pyman 4-23); 271 (D Williams 6-17); 273 (R Pyman 4-23); 275 (D Williams 6-17); 277 (R Pyman 4-23); 279 (D Williams 6-17); 281 (R Pyman 4-23); 283 (D Williams 6-17); 285 (R Pyman 4-23); 287 (D Williams 6-17); 289 (R Pyman 4-23); 291 (D Williams 6-17); 293 (R Pyman 4-23); 295 (D Williams 6-17); 297 (R Pyman 4-23); 299 (D Williams 6-17); 301 (R Pyman 4-23); 303 (D Williams 6-17); 305 (R Pyman 4-23); 307 (D Williams 6-17); 309 (R Pyman 4-23); 311 (D Williams 6-17); 313 (R Pyman 4-23); 315 (D Williams 6-17); 317 (R Pyman 4-23); 319 (D Williams 6-17); 321 (R Pyman 4-23); 323 (D Williams 6-17); 325 (R Pyman 4-23); 327 (D Williams 6-17); 329 (R Pyman 4-23); 331 (D Williams 6-17); 333 (R Pyman 4-23); 335 (D Williams 6-17); 337 (R Pyman 4-23); 339 (D Williams 6-17); 341 (R Pyman 4-23); 343 (D Williams 6-17); 345 (R Pyman 4-23); 347 (D Williams 6-17); 349 (R Pyman 4-23); 351 (D Williams 6-17); 353 (R Pyman 4-23); 355 (D Williams 6-17); 357 (R Pyman 4-23); 359 (D Williams 6-17); 361 (R Pyman 4-23); 363 (D Williams 6-17); 365 (R Pyman 4-23); 3

SPORT

FRIDAY JULY 20, 1990

Two giants take the centre stage

By MITCHELL PLATTS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

GREG Norman and Nick Faldo yesterday raised the curtain on the 119th Open Championship at St Andrews by wasting little time in moving centre stage on the Old Course.

Norman claimed a share of the lead with Michael Allen, of the United States, on 66 and Nick Faldo refused to be banished to the wings as he completed his 67 with a rare eagle at the 18th.

The setting was perfect for these two giants of the modern game, as a light breeze coming from the east off St Andrews Bay provided relief from the sultry conditions rather than protection for the course.

Neither Norman nor Faldo, winners of the Open in 1986 and 1987 respectively, have made a better start to this championship. Norman's previous best first-round score was a 67, in 1984; Faldo has had several 68s.

Norman looked impressive from the moment he holed from 14 feet for birdie at the 1st. He suppressed his natural inclination to take a course by the scruff of the neck and instead favoured a conservative route to the left side of the firm fairways.

The Australian did not place himself under pressure until, at the 9th, he rolled a putt of 25 feet some six feet past. He made the return and with a putt of 20 feet for a birdie at the 10th began an inward half, in which he made no mistakes. Norman, aged 35, has matured this was a vintage performance.

Faldo made his entrance little more than 30 minutes after Norman. He had, 24 hours earlier, celebrated his 33rd birthday although the festivities will have to wait until Sunday evening, when he will hope to be the first golfer to win both the Masters and Open in the same year since Gary Player in 1974.

The inclusion of a two wood with a loft of ten degrees has provided Faldo with an option to his graphite-shafted driver and the two dovetailed well. What was particularly encouraging was the manner in which Faldo went at the pins. The longest putt he holed for his four birdies was one of 12 feet, although he was not required to withdraw the putter from his bag at the 18th.

There, he provided a moment of pure theatre for that section of the record first-day crowd of 39,339 gathered around the green. Faldo found himself closer to the green than he had wanted although from 45 yards he played a delightful pitch and run with an eight-iron, which found the sanctuary of the hole for a two.

Faldo played alongside Scott Hoch, whom he beat in a play-off for the Masters last year. Hoch had, before teeing-off, claimed that comments



ST ANDREWS

attributed to him concerning the Englishman were not true. He had stated that Faldo was not the player "I would pick to play with" and that they were not "real friendly." Faldo followed the round with an invitation to tea which the American accepted.

Allen has revealed that something a little stronger than tea threatened some years ago to impair his vision on the fairways. "There was a time when I was drinking myself into oblivion," Allen said. "Once, at the European tour school, I locked myself in a room and the only time I came out over the next three days was to get some more beer. It had to stop."

There was a justifiable reason for Allen to drink a few glasses of Dom Pérignon when 12 months ago he won the Bell's Scottish Open, but he has no intention of walking anything except a straight line this week with the silver claret jug now in his sights.

Allen's cup will runneth over, too, if his putter remains as sweet to him as it was throughout his 66. He holed a putt of 150 feet at the 13th, which should be given a place in the Guinness Book of Records, for one of his seven birdies in the first 14 holes. He two putted from 80 feet at the 14th and from 100 feet at the 15th.

Ian Woosnam was less than satisfied with the Ram Zebra putter that has become such a friend during the last two weeks when he has won the Monte Carlo Open and the Bell's Scottish Open. So much so, that he claimed he would return it to the professional shot at Oswestry if it refused to work from here on.

Even so, Woosnam is well placed following a 68 which proved a popular score since no fewer than seven players finished on that mark. They included Christy O'Connor Jr, Martin Poole, Sam Torrance and the American, Peter Jacobsen, whose hopes of sharing the lead evaporated when he took six at the 17th as the early evening sun began to cast shadows across St Andrews.

In contrast, Poole had teed-off in the first group at 7.15am and finished almost before the Bollinger tent had served its first customer. He, too, might have called for a bottle or two, after a round which included a birdie at the 17th when he struck a superb five-iron to within four feet of the hole. Poole said: "It's better than sex."



Driving force: Severiano Ballesteros, of Spain, one of the favourites for the Open, in powerful form on the Old Course at St Andrews yesterday.

Faldo stroke that said it all

By DAVID MILLER

THE Masters champion and the man who so nearly might have been, 15 months ago, were partners on the first day of the Open. They did not say much to each other. Some people seem to think that is a story. Personally, I thought Nick Faldo's golf was much more of a story.

It is sad on the circuit that

Scott Hoch has a loose lip. He let slip the ill-advised word even more readily than he let slip the 18-inch play-off putt that would have denied Faldo the first of his consecutive Masters titles. On the eve of this championship, Hoch had said he did not much care for playing with Faldo who, he alleged, was uncommunicative. Yesterday, I thought Hoch should have got the message: Faldo's concentration does not leave much room for social intercourse.

Faldo, who won his first major three years ago at Muirfield, played the sort of game that perpetuates success. His round contained only two visible errors, and each time

he responded instantly: the first with a birdie at the same hole, the fifth, then an eagle at the 18th that raised a roar they will have heard in Perth. My game is very solid," he said in the understatement of the day.

If Faldo talks to anyone during a round, it is to his caddie, Fanny Sunesson. She fusses around him as attentively as a young primary school teacher with a five-year-old; and she offers more advice, on the line of his puts, than the Chancellor receives from No. 10. Pretty often it works, too.

The platform for Faldo's round of five-under, a good enough start for anyone, was made from the 10th to the 13th, with three birdies in four holes; and so nearly three more at the next three holes. Solid indeed.

He had gone one-under at the par-five fifth. Avoiding the line of seven bunkers on the right of the fairway — which

Hoch did not — he then badly topped his second, which scuttled along the ground rather in the way that I tend to hit the ball. Yet he recovered

with a neat chip on to the front ridge of the green and a 12ft single putt.

At the 10th, he hit a glorious three iron and wedge to within four feet, and holed. At the short 11th, where the bitter-sweet aroma of seaweed drifts up from the rocks on the St Andrews Bay shoreline, he held a firm par, playing like clockwork as he had throughout, eyes fixed on the horizon of his objective.

The next two holes frustrated Faldo by no more than inches: he might have gone six under to level with Norman, several holes out in front. And so to the 17th. He took the left-hand route to the green, going in time with the fighters' jets endlessly practising their kind of offensive game down the runways across the water at Leuchars.

The 13th is a dilemma of choice to the left or right of the Coffer bunkers. Faldo got his line correct and was comfortably on the green in two, some eight feet from the pin. He and his caddie now walked about heads down, bent in two, for what seemed five minutes: a couple of gardeners on the allotment planting lettuce or radishes.

Finally, the ball was ad-

dressed. Faldo wagged his toes up and down, like a diver on the edge of the springboard. Then a gentle ping, while gulls screeched overhead and the sun beat down unperturbed on the most under-dressed and over-exposed crowd ever to attend an Open. Four-under and four to play.

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couple of gardeners on the

allotment planting lettuce or

radishes.

With his new two-wood —

in fact an alloy — he underhit

the 18th. "A difficult position," he reflected afterwards.

Some 40 yards from the flag,

he hit a low pitch-and-run,

watched it turn left and right

... and nestled against the stick

in the hole. That said more

than Hoch might have

wished to hear from him.

Hick is in form with a century

By GEOFFREY WHEELER
NEIL Fairbrother, who has wasted his England chance and Graeme Hick, who is likely to go straight into the side next year when his qualifying period ends, shared the outstanding minnows of yesterday's county cricket championship matches.

The Warwickshire bowlers were left regretting that Fairbrother had not been included in the Texaco Trophy party, as he gave them an unmerited caning at County Lancashire in danger, the follow-on at 116 for nine were able to declare at 322 for eight, thanks to Fairbrother's unbeaten 203, during which he passed his 1,000 for the season in only his seventeenth minute. Fairbrother has taken less than five hours and 202 two sides and 35 fours.

Hick's unbeaten 177 at Worcester was his fifth championship century in the last six seasons against Somerset. His innings included two sixes and 29 fours.

The day's other century-makers were Mark Waugh, of Essex; Martin Speight, of Sussex and Keith Brown, of the championship leaders Middlesex.

Waugh's 126 put Essex on the road to almost certain victory against Derbyshire, whose wicket-keeper, Krikken, took five catches. Derbyshire, 98 behind on first innings, were routed by Neil Foster's second time around, but Essex were not quite able to finish the match in two days.

Speight pulled Sussex round from 111 for six — the West Indies brothers were both out first ball — against Surrey. There were six sixes in his hundred made from only 185 deliveries.

Brown was unbeaten with 102, his first century since the opening match of the season, when the Middlesex first-divisioners closed at 340 at Uxbridge against Yorkshire. There were six sixes in his hundred made from only 102 deliveries.

Neil Taylor, of Kent, certainly deserved a hundred at Northampton, where the Cowdry brothers failed to score both victims of County Ambrose in a burst of four wickets in 24 balls. Thanks to Taylor's 97, and valuable contributions from the lower order, Kent rallied to 283 but still had to follow on 162 behind.

Nottinghamshire also followed on against Hampshire at Portsmouth after being dismissed for 110, but managed to take the match into the third day by reaching 177 for six at their second attempt. They are still 14 behind.

More cricket, page 40

Girls given support by schools FA

By PETER BALL
THE English Schools' Football Association (ESFA), hitherto a bastion of male supremacy, has altered its constitution to include girls. The ESFA is also pressing the Football Association to alter its rules to allow boys and girls to play together up to 11 years of age.

The decision was passed by an overwhelming majority at last week's annual meeting in Newcastle after considerable pressure from some of the member associations.

The ESFA, which was founded in 1904, represents all levels of schools, although the public schools also have their own association. It is, however, still dependent on the final approval of the Charity Commissioners, but the loss of charitable status no longer appears a sizeable danger.

The next step, the change in FA rules, will have to wait until the association's annual meeting next summer. The FA has been carrying out its own investigation into the proposal, and, after two discussions on the subject in the last six months, ESFA officials were confident yesterday it would be approved.

In rural areas, in particular, the change is desperately needed, with junior schools finding they are unable to field teams unless they play mixed sides. At the moment, these can only play in friendly matches.

The prospect was widely welcomed yesterday. "Girls being taught to play alongside boys in school from an early age will benefit the women's game so much for obvious reasons," Linda Whitehead, the secretary of the women's FA, said.

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| Hole | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | TOTAL |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Yards | 370 | 411 | 371 | 463 | 564 | 416 | 372 | 178 | 356 | 342 | 72 | 316 | 428 | 567 | 413 | 382 | 461 | 354 | 6,833 |
| Par | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 72 |
| M Allen | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 66 |
| G Norman | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 66 |
| N Faldo | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 67 | |
| I Baker-Finch | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 68 | |
| C O'Connor Jr | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 68 | |
| I Woosnam | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 68 | |
| P Parry | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |